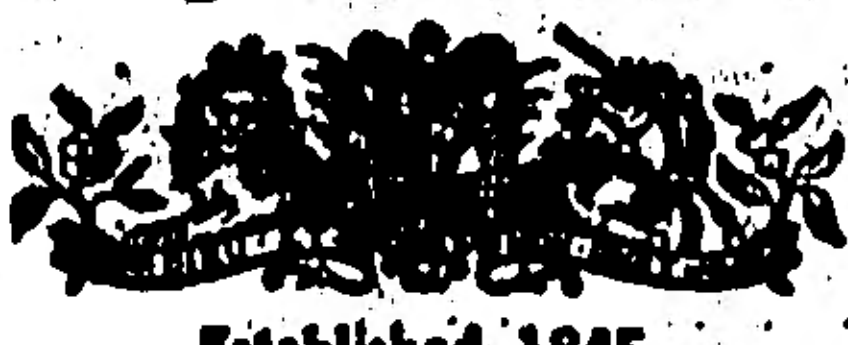


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COMMENT OF THE DAY

The Meaning Is Different

DURING the Berlin conference the East German Communist Government announced that all-German elections could only be allowed on condition that they were free "in the democratic sense of the word." Next Sunday the Germans, and others, are to be given another demonstration of what Communism means by free elections "in the democratic sense of the word," for on that day the people of the Soviet Union itself are to elect a new Supreme Soviet. And this, according to the Russian press, is "the most democratic election in the world." If the terms of the Soviet Constitution of 1936 are taken on face value the claim would not appear to be exaggerated, for Article 14 lays down that members of the Supreme Soviet "are chosen by the electors on a basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot." This seems to fulfil all the conditions for genuinely free elections. It might well have been copied word for word from the Constitution of any "bourgeois democracy." But it remains to be realised that there is an important difference in practice. Every adult Soviet citizen has a right to vote. He is free to choose his member of the Supreme Soviet. That is, he has in theory, the right to choose. But in practice he has no choice. For in each constituency there is only a single candidate, and he (or she) is the candidate of the "Communist and non-party bloc." It is noticeable that candidates need not necessarily be members of the Communist Party; on the other hand non-party candidates must be persons who are "devoted to the cause of Leninism-Stalinism. In other words they must have Communist approval.

HERE then is the model of free elections "in the democratic sense of the word." They are, in fact, elections which only produce, and can only produce, an alignment of nominees in which there is no possibility of opposition or of any dissenting voice of any consequence. Another consideration to be appreciated in estimating the importance of next Sunday's elections is that, despite its august title, the Supreme Soviet does not play any vital role in the governing of the country. It usually meets only once a year for a brief session of three to four days. The Supreme Soviet is little more than a finance committee. All the real power and authority is vested in a tiny group of men in the Kremlin, responsible to none but themselves, who control the organs of government and the organisation of the Party. The official description of the system is "democratic centralism," and certainly the "centralism" cannot be disputed. Moreover, it is this Soviet system and this Soviet conception of "free elections" which have been extended to the so-called People's Democracies of Eastern Europe. As in Russia there is always the "single list": that and the denial to the elector of any voice whatever in the election of his representative. This then is the meaning of the phrase "free elections in the democratic sense of the word," which the German Communists offer as a basis for the reunification of Germany. This is why Mr Molotov could not understand the Eden Plan at Berlin. It is also why there can never be a working agreement between the Big Four or between West and East Germany on the proper methods for holding all-German free elections.

NEW WEAPONS FOR THE BRITISH NAVY

Equal Pay For Women Petition

Mr Butler Replies To 25 Questions

London, Mar. 9. Spring bonnets and a hint of perfume filled the House of Commons today when Britain's determined women tackled the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the question of "equal pay for equal work."

But Mr R. A. Butler, smiling, parried their thrusts—25 pointed questions—with gallant praise and soft words.

The attack opened amid cheers when Miss Irene Ward (Conservative), wearing a green and white hat—colours of the first suffragette movement which won women the right to vote—presented petitions with 80,000 signatures to an official attendant superbly dignified in full evening dress.

Then more petitions with over a million names were brought in by Mr Charles Parnell (Labour) and neatly stacked on the floor.

Miss Ward read her petition which asked for "legislation to establish equal pay for equal work as between men and women in the public service, and thus implement a principle which has been accepted by your honourable house in 1920, 1938, 1944 and 1952."

A barrage of questions followed and Mr Butler said he would answer them ten at a time.

"EXPLOITED"

Dr Edith Summerskill, Labour, said women civil servants were being exploited as "cheap labour" and that countries poorer than Britain did not so exploit their women civil servants. Mr Butler replied that the splendid ladies of the civil service would not regard themselves as being exploited as cheap labour.

When asked why Ministers and Members of Parliament should have equal pay and not the civil servants in attendance in the House, the Chancellor retorted (amid laughter and cheers) "like a good many things to do with women, it is entirely illogical."

He pointed out that the cost of implementing equal pay throughout the civil service and in the teaching profession would be over £30,000,000.

"As I have been repeatedly stated," he said, "it is the intention of the Government to make a start in the introduction of equal pay in the civil service as soon as the financial and economic situation of the country permits."

Mr Emanuel Shinwell, protesting from the Opposition side, asked "isn't it about time the Chancellor stopped talking in a lot of nonsense? Isn't it a case that, he doesn't intend to do anything at all?"

Question time over, Mr Douglas Houghton, Labour, was given leave to introduce his private members Bill to establish a principle of equal pay.

It was the cue for the "suffragettes' beauty queens to start lobbying.—*Reuter*.

"Homing" Device For Destroying Submarines

London, Mar. 9.

Mr J. P. Thomas, First Lord of the Admiralty, told the House of Commons today that greatly improved "homing" weapons for destroying submarines when located would shortly be in service with the British Navy.

He did not give any details, but an Admiralty spokesman said the weapons would be launched from aircraft. They would "chase" submarines and "home" on to their targets.

This is distinct from the improved type of depth charge as fired from ships by a kind of multiple mounting.

This, the spokesman said, is partly of greatly improved asdic (underwater detection) gear fitted in the modern anti-submarine frigate. It contains an electric brain which when it locates a submarine sets about destroying it by automatically operating a more deadly anti-submarine mortar than has ever been used before in war.

The equipment automatically controls the mortar. It locates, aims, fires and sets its bombs to explode at the correct depth without human aid thus increasing the "killing" power of escort ships many times.

Mr Thomas said that British anti-submarine aircraft would be fitted with improved radar for the detection of a submarine's short-breathing apparatus which projects above the water. They would also carry buoys which can be dropped for detecting submerged submarines.

Another weapon in anti-submarine warfare would be helicopters, he said. Their ability to hover with a locating device suspended in the rear—a "dipping asdic"—promised a great improvement in the accuracy with which a submerged submarine could be fixed.

Submarines, Mr Thomas said, were also being provided with much improved asdics. The Navy was also going very thoroughly into "novel and promising" new devices for clearing all types of mines.

NEW JET FIGHTER

Mr Thomas said progress was being made in the producing of a swept back wing carrier-borne jet fighter. This machine would carry air to air guided missiles for air combat and an atom bomb if required. It was capable of supersonic speeds.

He also reported "steady progress" in the development of a "large guided missile for fleet and convoy protection".

The first guided weapon trials ship would be fitted out shortly, he added.

Mr Thomas said it would be a mistake to imagine that guided weapons would be in general service at sea or would supersede for years yet the gun as a weapon of medium and close range defence of the fleet and convoy against air attack.

Mr Thomas was asking the House of Commons for £353,000,000 for the Navy for the year 1954/55.

An Admiralty spokesman said tonight that a new three inch gun would be the main medium range anti-aircraft weapon of the future. This gun, being fitted in the trials cruiser Cumberland for sea trials later this year.

Essex Housewives To Burn Ration Books

London, Mar. 9.

Housewives in Maldon, Essex, east coast resort, will burn their ration books at a public rally on July 17 to celebrate the official end of food rationing in Britain.

Major Gwilym Lloyd George, Britain's Food Minister, was told about the big bonfire Maldon women are planning when he attended a 600-strong audience of housewives here today.

The news came after he had faced a barrage of quick-fire questions about present day prices and shortages.

The housewives learned something too about the £230,000,000 income tax relief given in the last budget "for the distinct purpose of offsetting the cost of living."

Miss Pat Hornaby-Smith, attractive Parliamentary Secretary to the Health Minister, said she conducted "a private smoke" among 20 husbands to find out how many passed on the concession to their wives.

"Only six increased their housekeeping allowances by the amount they benefited," she declared.

"Three told me their women groined so much that they had given them five shillings anyway and all nine regarded their action in the light of martyrdom."

"All the rest gave nothing whatever of the occasion for housekeeping"—*China Mail Special*.

Accusation Levelled At McCarthy

Washington, Mar. 9.

Senator Ralph E. Flanders (Rep. Vermont) told the United States Senate today that Senator Joseph McCarthy was doing his best to break up the Republican party, either willfully or through ignorance.

The real danger to the security of the United States was to be found without, and not within as claimed by the Senator from Wisconsin, Senator Flanders declared.

One only had to look to Korea "where the Iron Curtain had been moved down to the true line by force of arms, in defiance of the principles and of the purposes of the United Nations," or to Indo-China where "our country has been assigned to play the part of a supporter of colonialism," Senator Flanders said.

In Europe "Italy was ready to fall into the hands of the Communists," while France was "irresolute, palsied in thought and action, with her Communists well organised and sure of their ground," the Senator claimed.

Senator McCarthy "should not so work as to conceal the mortal danger in which our country finds itself from the external enemies of mankind," Senator Flanders said.

Meanwhile, Senator McCarthy told the Senate in New York that he would see whether American radio networks had the right to refuse him the free time on the air he required to reply to the accusations made against him by the defeated Democrat Presidential candidate, Mr Adlai Stevenson.

The networks had already given the required "air time" to the Republican Party, which desired to put its case against Mr Stevenson, but had refused to let McCarthy reply individually.—*France-Press*.

Arson And Looting Features Polling

Dacca, East Bengal, Mar. 9.

Fifty-six people were arrested, a party official said on fire and three shops looted in the bazaar area here today during clashes between rival parties vying to elect a new legislature for East Bengal.

After police had driven away arsonists and looters an armed contingent of the East Bengal Rifles was called out to patrol the area.

Voting today, the second day of the four-day election, was mainly by women and minorities.—*Reuter*.

Lively Commons Debate

Pancake Race Climax



The annual pancake race at Olney, Bucks, this year was won by 32-year-old Mrs Joan Keech, who collapsed at the end of the race and declared, "Never again." But after she had recovered she bestowed a kiss on the Rev. Ronald Collins, one of the officials.

Free Hand For Geneva Conference

Paris, Mar. 10.

The French Government last night emerged from the Indo-China debate, which began in the National Assembly last Friday, with a free hand for the Geneva conference on the Far East but somewhat cramped in its current negotiations with Vietnamese Ministers in Paris.

A motion approving the Government's policy and welcoming the Geneva conference was approved by a show of hands after being given priority over other proposed motions by 340 votes to 272.

But to secure this victory the Government had to accept a Gaullist-sponsored addition to the motion which, in effect, warned the Indo-Chinese States that they must either stay in the French Union or be prepared to defend themselves against the Communist-led Vietnamese Army without the help of the French expeditionary force.

This left the Government considerably less room for manoeuvre in the talks with the Vietnamese, who are not keen on the French Union in its present form and would like to get their independence treaty first and settle the form of their association with France afterwards.

In the clause by clause voting which preceded the final vote, this additional paragraph got 377 votes against 235.

The Government, however, secured the rejection of an amendment which might have weakened its bargaining power at Geneva by urging it to seek a cease-fire in Indo-China "even before the Geneva conference." As it stands the Government is simply pledged to "seek all solutions capable of ensuring peace and freedom" in Indo-China.—*Reuter*.

Fire Elections On May 18

Dublin, Mar. 9. Mr Eamon de Valera, the Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, announced here tonight that the Dail (Irish Parliament) would be dissolved on April 23.

General elections will be held in June on May 18.—*France-Press*.

Promised CANAL ZONE POLICY TO BE ATTACKED

London, Mar. 10.

Sir Winston Churchill's Government faces a determined attack in the House of Commons on Thursday over its policy on the future of the Suez Canal zone base.

Parliament will deal with this issue in a debate on the Army estimates. The Labour Opposition will try to drive a wedge between the Government and a group of 40 Conservatives who challenge their own leaders' policy on the Anglo-Egyptian dispute.

These Conservatives recently presented a motion asking the Government to call off negotiations with Cairo on the revision of the 1936 Anglo-Egyptian treaty and to withdraw any terms already offered.

The Labour "shadow Cabinet"—the Party's Parliamentary leaders—will meet tonight to plan the Opposition attack.

Simultaneously the 40 Conservatives will confer privately on the attitude in the debate. There now appears to be some division of opinion among them.

Many of the Labour Party want to criticise the Government by alleging it has dragged its feet on the Suez negotiations in deference to its 40 rebels.

But Labour Opposition has been complicated by a resolution put forward by Mrs Barbara Castle, one of the supporters of Mr Aneurin Bevan, Labour's left-wing leader.

This asks Parliament to note "a deterioration since 1951 in the living conditions of British troops in the Canal zone due to uncertainty as to the future of the base."

IN CONFLICT

"Deploring the Government's handling of the Anglo-Egyptian negotiations," which has prolonged this uncertainty," it urges that withdrawal of British troops and equipment should begin forthwith.

This unqualified demand for the withdrawal of troops conflicts with official Labour policy. It is learned that Mrs Castle has since decided to cut out this part of her resolution, which some Socialists think would heal rather than widen the breach between the Government and its "Suez rebels."

The Labour shadow Cabinet must decide today whether it can advise its adherents to support the resolution as amended. Many Socialists are determined to force a vote.

Taking A Rest

Cairo, Mar. 9.

Lieutenant-Colonel General Abdel Nasser, Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister, said tonight he is taking five days' rest on the advice of his doctor.

Colonel Nasser became Prime Minister when President Naguib resigned in last month's government crisis, only to lose the post last night when General Naguib—already reinstated—resumed supreme authority.

Colonel Nasser has been replaced by President Naguib both as Prime Minister and as Chairman of the Revolution Council.—*Reuter*.

HEAD-ON CRASH

Rosario, Argentina, Mar. 9.

Two long-distance buses crowded with passengers crashed head-on today on the national highway between here and Cordoba. First reports said even persons were killed and 23 injured.—*United Press*.

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JACK PALANCE

"PROPAGANDA AND MYTH"

SAYS MAKINS

Replies To Charges

Of Violating
UN Strategic Ban

New York, Mar. 9.

The British Ambassador to the United States, Sir Roger Makins, today answered Britain's critics by describing as a "myth" and "propaganda" charges that Britain was exporting strategic goods to Communist China and the Soviet Union.

"The fact is that you must distinguish between what is put out as propaganda and the statistics," he said in a speech to the Houston Club at Texas. "The former bears no relations to the latter."

Sir Roger Makins said the first myth about Britain's trade was that she had shipped and was continuing to ship strategic goods to the Communists.

"Of course I can only speak for Britain, but what I shall say is broadly true of other Western European countries," he added.

"Britain originated the policy of prohibition and controlling the export of strategic goods to the Soviet bloc," he said.

"It has not only participated actively in the enforcement of this policy, but in the case of China has actually imposed rather stricter controls than some other countries."

He said except for a few minor cases when regulations had been circumvented and severely dealt with, no strategic

goods had been exported from any British territory or in any British ship since international controls were imposed at the beginning of the Korean war.

SECOND MYTH

The second myth, he said, was that Allies of the United States were doing a tremendous non-strategic trade with the Communist bloc.

He pointed out that Western Europe's trade with the Soviet Union in 1952 and early 1953 had fallen sharply and that Britain's trade with the whole Soviet bloc in 1953 was only about one per cent of its total trade.

"The picture in regard to trade with China is very similar," he added.

"It is true there has been a considerable increase in the last few months in non-strategic trade between Western Europe and China, but the increases began from abnormally low levels and in 1953 the proportion which trade with China was to Britain's total trade was about one quarter of one per cent."

S. Korea Seeks
Assurances On
Geneva Talks

Washington, Mar. 9.

The State Department today received by telegram a copy of a letter addressed to the Secretary of State, Mr. John Foster Dulles, by the South Korean government regarding the forthcoming Asian conference in Geneva, it was officially stated today.

The letter was dated March 6, and was sent to Washington by the United States ambassador in Seoul, Mr. Ellis Briggs. It is now under study by the State Department specialists, and will be answered when the Secretary of State returns from Caracas.

The South Korean letter to the American government demanded certain written assurances before the Seoul government would commit itself to sending delegates to the conference. The invitation to South Korea was sent out by the United States government.

Among other things, the South Koreans have asked whether the conference would be limited to three months, and whether it would be a "round table affair" or "bi-partite."

Other questions called for details as to the exact role to be played at the conference by Communist China and the Soviet Union.—France-Press.

New Post For US
Navy Secretary

Washington, Mar. 9.

President Eisenhower today named Mr. Robert Anderson, the present Secretary of the Navy, as Under-Secretary of Defense, to replace Mr. Robert Kyes who has announced his intention to resign on May 1.

A spokesman for the White House said that no announcement would be made at the moment of a successor to Mr. Anderson at the head of the Department of the Navy.

Mr. Anderson, a lawyer and businessman who owns a ranch in Texas, had supported President Eisenhower in the 1952 elections, although he was a Democrat himself.

Mr. Kyes, a vice-president of General Motors, had accepted the post of deputy Secretary of Defense for a twelve-month period expiring on February 2 this year. He will transfer his powers over to Mr. Anderson on May 1.

The Presidential Press Secretary, Mr. James Hagerly, denied that Mr. Anderson would be replaced as Secretary of the Navy by the governor of Connecticut, Mr. John Lodge.—France-Press.

Queen Ingrid Visits England



Queen Ingrid of Denmark pictured on her arrival at Liverpool Street Station, London, last month. She is on a private visit to her aunt, Lady Patricia Ramsey.

Traces Of Thieves
Found In
Pyramid Corridor

Cairo, Mar. 9.

Hopes of finding intact the burial chambers of the newly discovered pyramid at Sakkarah vanished today, when the pyramid was finally opened.

Like the other 60 pyramids which line the banks of the Nile, it too had been visited by thieves.

The Egyptologist, Zakaria Ghonem, who discovered the pyramid, swung the first blows with the pick axe, and very soon, the opening was made.

After waiting a few moments to allow the foul air to dissipate, the archaeologists entered the tunnel, which opened out on to vast galleries, 18 feet high. But after penetration about 30 feet down the corridor, the way was found to be blocked by a fall of earth, proving that thieves had visited the tomb already, probably in the first centuries immediately after the pharaoh was buried.

Ghonem said even if they would not find a treasure of rich jewels, they hoped to find inscriptions which would help to explain something of the history of the third dynasty, of which little is known.

The archaeologists are still not certain for whom the pyramid was built, but it is thought it may be that of Sanacht.

The corridor opened today is likely to continue for at least 30 metres beyond the point where it is blocked, and in the coming weeks, the archaeological service will be at work to clear the tunnel leading to the tomb. Then it should be known at last for which pharaoh the pyramid was built.—France-Press.

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DONALD O'CONNOR
LITTLE RAINY
BLACK BALS
FRANCIS the Talking Mule

Admiral Radford Says

"Military Conduct Of
Indo-China War
Up To The French"

New York, Mar. 10.

The Chairman of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Arthur Radford, today said the United States would help materially and financially to defeat Communist aggression in Indo-China, but would leave the control of actual military operations to France and to the Associated States of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

"There has been public speculation to the effect that the United States seeks to direct and to control the military operation in Indo-China. This is not the case at all," Admiral Radford said. "The United States does not request, and does not desire, to assume responsibility for the military situation in Indo-China."

The United States, however, would continue to render assistance in the form of financial support and military supplies in view of the vital importance of Indo-China to the defense system of the Western world.

America's top military leader, who was making an address here, said "Indo-China was of special interest to the United States because its loss would directly imperil the whole of South-east Asia, and indirectly a much wider area."

"The Reds would be that much stronger, and we would be that much weaker," Admiral Radford said it was apparent "that it would be necessary to do more in the Far East."

"Accordingly, we have made available substantial additional resources to assist military defence efforts in Indo-China, and to defeat the Communist aggression," Admiral Radford said.

FRENCH RESPONSIBILITY
"However, in consonance with our long established policy of rendering material assistance and moral support to nations threatened by the Communist aggression, the United States has supplied much of the material means to help them

fight against it. We plan to continue such military assistance programmes, and to co-operate with our friends in Indo-China."

Admiral Radford, warning the people of the United States against excessive confidence in the atomic weapon, said "it was recognized that the safety of the U.S. could not be assured by the U.S. alone."

"Our planning does not subscribe to the thinking that the ability to deliver massive atomic retaliation is in itself, an adequate guarantee of security. We believe that this nation could be a prisoner of its own military posture, if it had no capability other than the capability to deliver a massive atomic attack."

SECOND TO NONE
"It should be evident, from the forces that we intend to maintain, that we are not relying solely on air power. We shall continue to have over a million men in our army, and we shall continue to have a navy that is second to none."

Admiral Radford pointed out that the United States must have allies as "we recognize that the safety of the United States cannot be assured by the United States alone."—France-Press.

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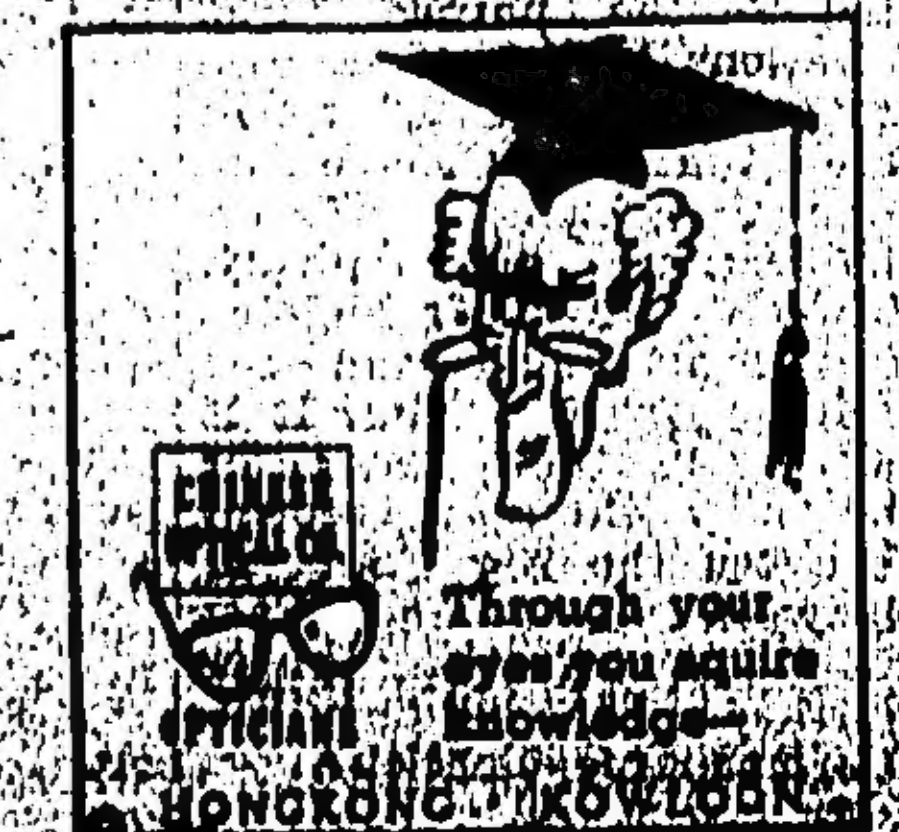
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USA HAS ONLY SHORT H-BOMB LEAD OVER USSR

Belgian Minister Says Russia 9 Months Behind

Brussels, Mar. 9. — The Belgian Defence Minister, General Eugene De Greef, warned today that "the approximate balance of military power" now existing between East and West could be turned in Russia's favour within two years.

He told the Belgian Upper House, the Senate, now in its second week of debate on ratification of the European Defence Community Treaty, that "within two years from now Russia will have a certain number of hydrogen bombs."

The Minister added that the United States had only a nine-months advance on Russia in thermo-nuclear technique.

The present equilibrium in military forces had been reached, by Russia's "inconceivable superiority" in classical weapons and America's in atom and thermo-nuclear arms.

General De Greef said Russia had 250,000 men in her ground forces — double the number in 1939 — and 800,000 men in her air force, which had also doubled since 1947.

Calling on the Senate to ratify the EDC treaty, the Minister said that it would take two years after all six member countries had completed ratification of the treaty before the proposed 12 West German divisions could be provided for the European Army.

Since 1950, when negotiations were first started to create a European Army, Russia had increased the fighting power of all her forces, had completely subdued her satellites, made up her petrol deficits and learnt thermo-nuclear technique.

During the same time, the West had made progress, but still lacked combat divisions, the Minister declared. — Reuter.

A-BOMBS IN E. GERMANY

Dusseldorf, W. Germany, Mar. 9. — A Soviet lieutenant who recently sought asylum in West Berlin today said he believed the Red Army had stocks of atomic bombs in East Germany.

He did not think, however, that the Soviet Union had any atomic cannon in spite of its claims to the contrary.

Lieutenant Mikhail Ivanovich Grigorov, who formerly directed the Keopernick monitoring station in East Germany, told the press the Soviet Union possessed some secret weapons, but that the armament of the Red Army in general was not as good as that of the Western forces — and that the Air Force in particular was inferior.

Grigorov said the belief had been current among Soviet officers stationed in East Germany that the Soviet Union had not wanted the Berlin conference to succeed.

The Soviet people and army were convinced that the proposed Western German army, and the European army as a whole, were directed against

Moscow Radio Attacks US "Selfishness"

London, Mar. 9.

Radio Moscow accused the United States of trying to "deflect" South American attention at the Caracas conference from "vital problems" by attacking Communism.

A Moscow broadcast monitored here said these problems were "notably the invasion by American monopolies of the economy of the Latin American countries."

"The behaviour of the U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles in Caracas only confirms that the U.S.A. is striving to use the fight against Communism as an excuse for the narrowly selfish interests of the U.S.A.," said the broadcast.

"As regards the calls by U.S. ruling circles for more effective measures to suppress the democratic movement, wide sections of the Latin American public regard such policy as gross interference by Washington in the internal affairs of Latin America."

"It is clear to everyone that U.S. diplomacy has directed its efforts mainly against Guatemala, the Government of which has taken measures to end the domination of the country by American monopolies."

"At the Caracas conference, American diplomacy would like to achieve results which would give it the right of armed interference in order to crush the national liberation movement of the Guatemalan people. The outspoken colonialist policy of the American monopolies is meeting with the growing resistance of the Latin American peoples, who demand that their government should refuse to submit to the U.S. monopolies and pursue an independent policy." — United Press.

Development Fund For TV Suggested

London, Mar. 10.

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It rejected the view that commercial advertising on television would lead to degraded standards, but "certain standards" would be necessary to preserve present standards. — Reuter.

Umma Party's Accusation

Khartoum, Mar. 9.

The Umma Party today issued a statement accusing the Government of ill-treating people arrested after the recent riots.

The statement also accused the Government of leaning towards Egypt and departing from a national to a party policy. It added, however, that Umma would continue to co-operate with Parliament, but should the Government insist on following this policy, they would have to reconsider their attitude. — Reuter.

Inchcape Light Helps Newfoundland's Trawlers

Washington, Mar. 9.

The story of a Scottish lighthouse lamp that emigrated to Newfoundland to achieve New World as well as Old World renown was told here by the National Geographic Society.

The beacon is the Inchcape Light. Once it flashed its warning from the tower of the Inchcape or Bell Rock Lighthouse, 12 miles off Scotland's east coast. Standing amid the shipping lanes off the Firth of Tay and Forth, it marked a hazard immortalised in Robert Southey's ballad, "The Inchcape Rock."

In 1842 the beacon was replaced and the old light sent to Newfoundland. There, on Cape Bonaville, it still guards the fishing and sealing fleets that skirt the coast of England's oldest colony, now Canada's newest province.

"The Scottish Canadian home in which the beacon is housed is a fine example of early Scottish architecture," says the National Geographic Society.

The Inchcape Lighthouse, built by Robert Stevenson, grandfather of the novelist Robert Louis Stevenson, ranks among the most noted of early Scottish lighthouses. — Reuter.

Moscow Radio Attacks US "Selfishness"

London, Mar. 9.

Radio Moscow accused the United States of trying to "deflect" South American attention at the Caracas conference from "vital problems" by attacking Communism.

A Moscow broadcast monitored here said these problems were "notably the invasion by American monopolies of the economy of the Latin American countries."

"The behaviour of the U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles in Caracas only confirms that the U.S.A. is striving to use the fight against Communism as an excuse for the narrowly selfish interests of the U.S.A.," said the broadcast.

"As regards the calls by U.S. ruling circles for more effective measures to suppress the democratic movement, wide sections of the Latin American public regard such policy as gross interference by Washington in the internal affairs of Latin America."

"It is clear to everyone that U.S. diplomacy has directed its efforts mainly against Guatemala, the Government of which has taken measures to end the domination of the country by American monopolies."

"At the Caracas conference, American diplomacy would like to achieve results which would give it the right of armed interference in order to crush the national liberation movement of the Guatemalan people. The outspoken colonialist policy of the American monopolies is meeting with the growing resistance of the Latin American peoples, who demand that their government should refuse to submit to the U.S. monopolies and pursue an independent policy." — United Press.

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Royal Plate Exhibition



For the first time the British public will see the Royal plate from Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle at an Exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. This photograph shows a close-up of the detail of a gilt table-centre made in 1842 by Robert Garrard. Models of four favourite dogs of Queen Victoria are placed on a circular plateau, namely a greyhound Eds, a Skye terrier Cairnuch, a rough-haired terrier Islay, and a dachshund, Walimann. Designed by Prince Albert and exhibited at the Annual Exhibition of British Manufacturers in 1849. In the picture can be seen dogs watching a rat in a trap with a dead rat at base. — Express Photo.

Replying to Adlai Stevenson's Charges

Nixon's Speech To Reflect Eisenhower's View

Philadelphia, Mar. 9.

Vice President Richard Nixon said today his radio reply next Saturday to the attack on Republican "McCarthyism" by the Democrat leader, Mr Adlai Stevenson, would reflect the view of President Eisenhower.

He said he would be speaking as Republican party spokesman and, more particularly for the President and "I have a pretty good idea of what I want to say."

Mr Nixon's forthcoming speech was provoked by the Democratic leader's claim last Saturday that the Republicans were using "slander, dissection and deception" to try to win the November Congressional elections.

The choice of Mr Nixon to make the counter-attack was said to have been made by the President himself to get the Communist hunting Senator Joseph McCarthy out of the headlines and get the Republicans' story across.

But Senator McCarthy too is trying to make a personal reply to Mr Stevenson.

He has threatened to take legal action against privately owned broadcasting companies unless they grant him free radio time to make his reply. Some companies have refused.

Senator's demand because they have already allocated time to Mr Nixon.

Mr Nixon said today he had not yet prepared his radio and television speech and would not have a final draft until he had conferred with the President and other Republican leaders.

"HE'S NOT HERE" — Asked whether Senator McCarthy would be included in the talks, Mr Nixon said: "He is not in Washington now."

(Senator McCarthy is in New York today, the subject of a mysterious phone call threatening him that unless he got out of his hotel there "something terrible will happen").

Senator McCarthy has so far avoided an open clash with his party over who shall reply to Mr Stevenson but the press has interpreted his choice of Mr Nixon as a rebuff to the Senator. — Reuter.

Persian Elections Nearly Finished

Tehran, Mar. 9.

Persia's lengthy general election neared its end today as the people of Tehran began voting for the Majlis (Lower House). Polling goes on for two more days.

First votes were cast in remote areas of the country on January 16. The elections are the first held since General Fazlollah Zahedi became Prime Minister after the ousting of Mr Mohammed Mossaddegh last August.

One of the main tasks facing the new Parliament is to ratify any oil agreement with Britain. Ministry of Interior officials reported last night the Shah was considering opening the Parliament on March 15, but it would not start work until early April, they added. — Reuter.

London, Mar. 9. — Mr Nikita Khrushchev, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, and a third man in the Soviet hierarchy, arrived in Warsaw today at the head of a delegation to the Second Congress of the Polish United Workers' (Communist) Party. Moscow Radio reported that the Congress opens on Thursday.

TRIAL IN KENYA

"Committed Perjury On Orders Of My Superior Officer"

Nairobi, Mar. 9.

A subaltern in the King's African Rifles, 24-year-old Second Lieutenant David Innes Walker, testified today he had committed perjury before a court of inquiry on the orders of his superior officer — Captain Gerald Selby Lewis Griffiths, who is accused of cruelty to Africans.

"I did it because I was told to by my superior officer," he told the court martial. "It was not to save my own skin. I had nothing to gain and everything to lose. It was to help ten of my men."

Griffiths' defence counsel asked the subaltern "is it true you came here today to save your own skin at anybody else's cost?" He replied "no."

Lieutenant Innes Walker said he now felt "ashamed" of his part in the forest incidents, but "felt I was merely executing the orders of my superior officer."

Mr Gledhill asked: "why did you not interview Second Lieutenant Innes Walker as a result of what was said in those statements?"

Major Dawson replied: "Because I was acting under the terms of reference of General Headquarters of this command. I had pursued my inquiries to a certain stage, and I reported to my superior."

He had no orders to proceed further, he added.

The Judge Advocate, Lord Russell, of Liverpool, asked Mr Gledhill what was the relevance of how Major Dawson carried out his orders to the case against Griffiths. Mr Gledhill replied he wanted to find out the reason why one officer, Griffiths, alleged to be guilty of "disgraceful conduct of a cruel kind" had been charged before a court martial, while another, Innes Walker, "alleged to have murdered" had not been charged.

The Judge Advocate interposed to say "this is not a matter for this court."

The case was adjourned till Wednesday. — Reuter.

CLEAN MOVEMENT

"All Segat leant forwards as if he was going to obey the order, but he did not actually cut the man."

The Lieutenant said: "Soon after, All Segat cut off the man's right ear by holding it in his left hand and cutting it in one clean movement with his right hand. As I recall it, cutting off the prisoner's ear was Segat's own idea."

He remembered Griffiths swearing and saying "that was quick."

He added that some time after the incident, Griffiths said "this man will have to be shot otherwise he will bleed to death."

Lieutenant Innes Walker said he did not recollect Griffiths saying anything to Segat about cutting off the ear and Segat was never placed on a charge by Griffiths for what he had done.

Questioned, he said he protested after the prisoner had been threatened with castration by saying something like "I don't think that would be a wise thing to do."

He denied he helped to take down the prisoner's trousers or that he ordered the man to be shot in the forest.

Major Clifford Dawson, Deputy Assistant Provost Marshal in charge of the Army Special Investigation Branch, told the court he had taken statements from two Somali soldiers of Griffiths' company early last January and said no "promise, threat or inducement" had been made to them before their statements were taken down in his presence.

Cross-examined by Mr Gledhill, Major Dawson agreed that both Somali soldiers had mentioned in their statements that one of the Mau Mau suspects, whose ear had been cut off on Griffiths' orders, had been released during a forest patrol, ordered to run by Lieutenant Innes Walker and then shot on that officer's orders.

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Jack Geller At The Hammond Organ

For Reservations

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For Reservations

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For Reservations

Bird's Nest Caused Death

London, Mar. 9. — A bird's nest blocking the outside flue of a bathroom keyser caused the death of a 14-year-old boy, it was revealed at an inquest at Sutton Surrey.

A verdict of accidental death from poisonous fumes was recorded. — China Mail Special.

Grim Fight To Ratify EDC In Italy

Forecast

Rome, Mar. 10.

A vote of confidence for Signor Mario Scelba's Coalition Government in the Italian lower house today will set the stage for what may be Italy's most bitter political battle since the war.

Scelba plans to submit a bill to ratify the European Defence Community Treaty soon after Parliament completes its approval of his two-month-old Cabinet.

He obtained a confidence vote from the Senate 10 days ago and is likely to gain a narrow majority in the Chamber of Deputies today.

Scelba's Communist and extreme left-wing Socialists are preparing to launch an all-out drive to block and outside Parliament against EDC ratification.

The Christian Democrats, Italy's largest party, will counter the attack by a nationwide campaign in favour of Italy's participation in the European defence system.

Several official sources say the EDC bill and an explanatory report were already being drawn up. One newspaper has predicted they will be sent to Parliament next week.

EVERY DEVICE

The Communists and Socialists are likely to use every Parliamentary device to delay a debate in the bill in the Commission stage and in plenary sessions.

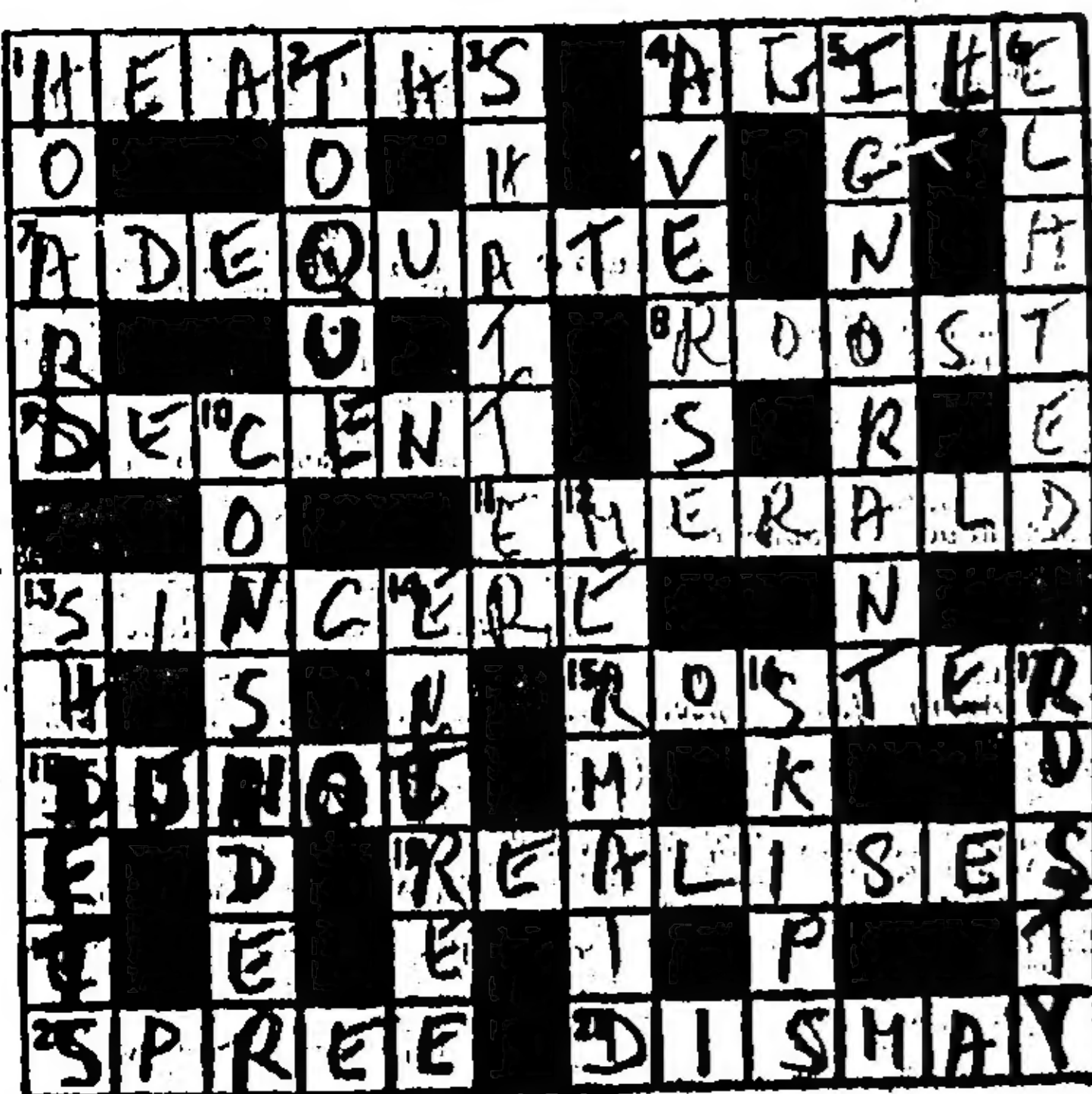
Protest demonstrations, letters to Deputies and propaganda broadcasts in Italian from behind the Iron Curtain will probably be used to whip up feeling against EDC and the "Italian stages of American imperialism."

A prominent Communist Senator said last year's bitter struggle by Communists and Socialists against Signor Scelba's electoral reform bill would be child's play compared with what might happen to prevent EDC ratification.

"We can make our resistance ten times more intense," he declared.

But Signor Scelba — who as Interior Minister built up Italy's tough new police force and earned the reputation of a stern adversary of the Communists — is ready to fight it out, Reuter.

A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

DOWN

- 1 Moors (6).
- 4 Spry (5).
- 7 Suffocant (8).
- 8 Perch (4).
- 9 Respectable (6).
- 11 Precious stone (7).
- 13 Earnest (7).
- 15 Duty list (6).
- 18 Fool (5).
- 19 Turns into cash (8).
- 20 Jollification (6).
- 21 Discourage (6).

- 1 Amass (5).
- 2 Kind of hat (5).
- 3 Disinclined (6).
- 4 Lacking knowledge (8).
- 5 In high spirits (6).
- 6 Deliberate (8).
- 8 Fabulous creature (7).
- 10 Moves (6).
- 14 Course (6).
- 15 Jumps about (5).
- 17 Out of practice (5).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD: Across: 1 Fast, 4 Hilder, 5 Ream, 9 Coma, 10 Sparling, 11 Vote, 12 Sore, 14 Entered, 17 Adult, 19 Villa, 22 Elevate, 26 Near, 27 Rapt, 28 Spanker, 29 Evil, 30 Egan, 31 Repeats, 32 Tots, 33 Dew, 34 Adored, 35 Travel, 36 Haste, 37 Impudent, 38 Dingo, 39 Range, 40 Scape, 41 Role, 42 Clasp, 43 Stride, 44 Intest, 45 Larist, 46 Lapse, 47 Venus, 48 Fawn, 49 Scent, 50 Scent, 51 Scent, 52 Scent, 53 Scent, 54 Scent, 55 Scent, 56 Scent, 57 Scent, 58 Scent, 59 Scent, 60 Scent.

In all things...
there is
only
ONE
BEST



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BOOTH'S

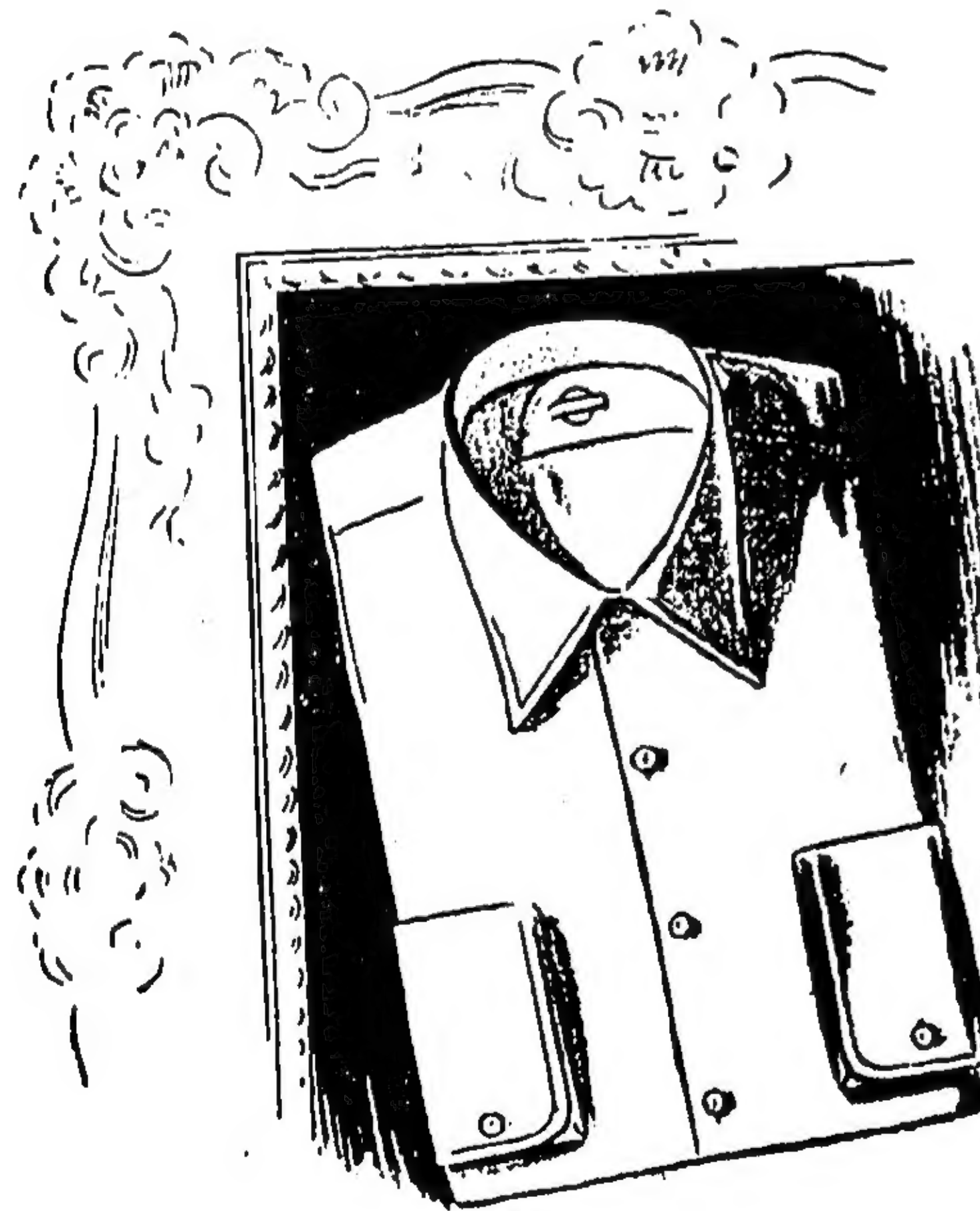
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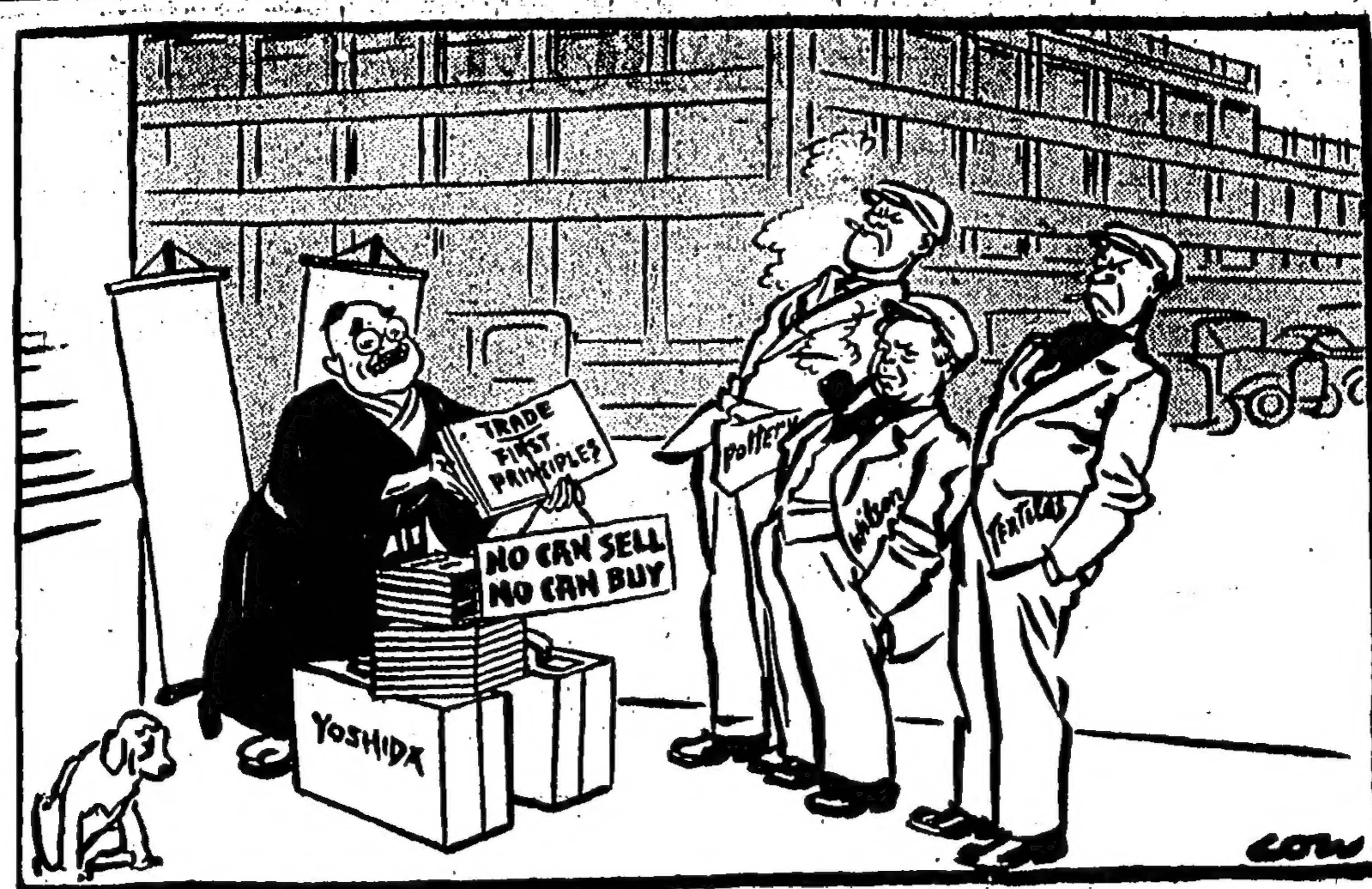
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JAPANESE COMMERCIAL TRAVELLER

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A SLAVE ON HIS OWN LAND

By Anna Smirnova

THE collective farm discussed in this article was considered, in the years 1942/6, to be one of the largest kolkhozes in the district. Situated in the Kirov area, some 300 miles East-North-East of Moscow, it is completely isolated and without rail or water communications. It is a backward area and completely without forests, as a result of which firewood has to be bought, at considerable expense to the peasants.

The kolkhoz consisted of three villages, amalgamated into one farming enterprise. There were about 125 households, and the population was about 700. The property owned amounted to 330 hectares, of which 120 were under cultivation, 205 were growing hay, and five were completely unusable. In the "deed of gift" (a large thin book in blue calico binding embossed with a hammer and sickle) it was stated: "This land is given to the members of the kolkhoz and of the collective farm completely, gratuitously and in perpetuity." The members of the kolkhoz paid for this fine-sounding sentence with their blood and sweat.

Soviet collective farms are managed by a committee of five members who, as a rule, are completely under the thumb of the chairman of the farm. Management and presidents are elected, according to regulations, by members of the kolkhoz for a period of one year, but if there is extreme discontent, the collective farmers may elect a new president earlier.

Turned Down

In order to do this, however, representations have to be made to the regional committee and the authorities are usually extremely unwilling to act. Almost always they turn down such requests so as not to decrease the prestige and power of the farm presidents in the eyes of the ordinary labouring farmers.

The second privileged person on the collective farm is the accountant. In war time these duties were carried out by women, and for this work city workers, such as evacuated bookkeepers, bank workers, etc., were preferred. On the conscientiousness of the accountant the well-being of the collective farm to a great degree depends, since he holds all the cards, so to speak; he can contact any of the managing body whenever he wishes, including any committee of inspection, and at the same time, by the nature of his job, he acts as a deterrent against would-be embezzlers.

There is one brigadier to each village, and each within the limits of his village is "Czar and God" to the collective farm. Next in the social scale come the stable managers, who look after the livestock, and the sidekicks. The "norms" of work and payment are laid down separately for each farm but vary little from

Anna Smirnova is the nom-de-plume of the writer of this article, an ex-Soviet citizen who lived on the outskirts of Leningrad. She worked in the office of a government department.

During World War II she was evacuated from Leningrad and obtained a position with the management of a collective farm in the Kirov district. After the war she worked as a civilian for the Soviet Occupation Forces in Austria. She has been living in the West since the end of 1949.

one kolkhoz to another since (1) the inflation of norms leads to an increase in the number of labour days but a lowering in the value of the work done, and (2) increased norms are a disadvantage to the administrators of the kolkhoz, who are paid not according to the amount of work done, but on the basis of a fixed number of labour days per month. The norms of work are laid down at a general meeting of kolkhoz members. Payment for the administration is: president, 55 labour days per month; accountant, 45; brigadiers, 45 each; managers of stables, 35, and storemen, 30.

Impoverishment

The final distribution of the harvest takes place in October and November, and until then advances are made to the collective farmers when necessary. If the kolkhoz is extremely impoverished, the town authorities send the farm a rate drawn from the reserve fund of better-off kolkhozes. This is not done out of philanthropy but because the executive committee is interested in getting in the harvest and reporting favourably to the oblast Party committee.

The chief reason for impoverishment are the Machine and Tractor Stations (MTS). If the kolkhoz has no horses, and 80% of them have none, the farm is serviced by tractors (no kolkhoz has its own tractors). This is extremely costly since after the ploughing the MTS present a bill to the kolkhoz office in accordance with the number of hectares ploughed. This must be paid within 10 days, after which, if payment is not made, a fine is imposed followed by another if the first is still not paid.

I have known of kolkhozes which, after the harvest, were simply unable to pay the MTS and the State, or even to start a seed fund, let alone distribute anything to the collective farmers. The peasants used to go around neighbouring villages doing odd jobs: weaving flax or doing blacksmith's and carpenter's work.

No Escape

It is absolutely impossible to escape from the kolkhoz. The peasant is completely tied down to the land. The fundamental reason for this is that he has no passport, no prospect of obtaining accommodation, and cannot register anywhere. "He" is a slave tied to his own land which the Government, by means of its magnanimous "deed of gift" presented to him. If the collective farmer has to go to a neighbouring town, say 80 kilometres away, for salt, soap or kerosene (in his own village, such rare commodities cannot be obtained), he is obliged to ask permission from the farm president and the accountant writes him out a pass

A licence of this kind is given for no longer than three or four days at a time, including the time necessary to get there and back. The farm president limits the issue of these passes as much as possible so as to avoid unpleasantness with the local militia, since in large towns searches are often conducted from flat to flat in order to find peasants without documents.

Every peasant household has at the back of the house a small kitchen garden of 25 to 40 hectares. Here they grow potatoes, cucumbers and cabbage; but if this small area is sown with wheat or other cereals, the grain is subject to an additional tax. It is quite common to see four or five women harnessed to a plough and taking it in turns to plough their kitchen gardens for themselves, since horses cannot be obtained from the kolkhoz, and this is a seasonal matter which admits no delay.

Low Prices

In the middle of summer, Zagotzerno, the grain collecting organisation, issues to the kolkhoz a statement of tax, according to the area of land under cultivation and the range of crops sown. The kolkhoz management has no right to make labour-day payments before it has settled with the State, with the MTS (including fines for late payment), and provided a seed fund, an emergency fund, and made advance payments to ploughmen and reapers. This of course, is the normal state of affairs when the kolkhoz finances are on a sound basis, but in 75 per cent of them the position is extremely bad and during the winter even the seed fund is sold.

The State paid ridiculously low prices for the grain delivered to it: for example, for 1 tonner (100 kilograms) of grain, 2 roubles 20 kopecks, while in the towns only 1 kgm. of bread cost 3 roubles at the time of which I am speaking. The position was just as bad as regards payment for other crops delivered: oats, hay, flax, potatoes and other products. To cover outgoings, the kolkhoz management is obliged to sell cows, sheep and milk.

The condition of livestock and horses leaves much to be desired. Conditions are disgusting and unsanitary, particularly for horses. During my three years' stay in this kolkhoz, (and I repeat: it was one of the best in the district) I do not remember any time when in one of the stables the horses were not so exhausted that they had to be kept up by ropes tied to the ceiling and encircling their bodies. This sort of thing is common in winter when the kolkhoz is working on the cartage of grain from isolated parts of the district to the town also. Often the starving carters will sell the

cows allotted to the horse, exchanging it for bread on the way. Bread is very scarce and nothing can be done about it. In the backward kolkhozes where even the human beings have nothing to eat, the horses starve.

Harness in the stables is in a disgusting condition and consists mostly of string. Even the position of the farmer himself is not much better than that of the horses described here. The contrast between the well-being of the administrative staff and the ordinary run of collective farmers is enormous—in fact, monstrous. The elite such as the farm president and accountant, the brigadiers, stable managers and storemen, live in conditions which bear no comparison with the other members of the kolkhoz.

Back-breaking

And so it is that the lot of a brigadier who receives 540 labour days a year, cannot be compared with that of the collective farmer whose average earnings are a maximum of 180/200, since a great deal of back-breaking effort must be expended to achieve this total. Seventy per cent of the collective farmers only have enough grain to last until Christmas; after that they must use bran, pigweed, and ground acorns collected by the children during the summer and, as a great delicacy, potatoes. The better-off peasants, instead of bran, usually mix with the flour 50 per cent of raw potato peel. It is not difficult to imagine what bread made in this manner tastes like.

During my three years on this farm I had abundant opportunity to observe what was going on, as I lived under the same roof as a peasant family. It was a fairly well-established household in a well-off kolkhoz, but if you take a family in a kolkhoz which is never out of debt to the Government, where, in the autumn, the grain has to be swept from the granary floor to fulfil obligations to the State, the misery of such a kolkhoz boggles description.

No Rights

No cows, no bread, no firewood, not to speak of warm underclothes or a warm overcoat, and yet one read in the papers:

"We inform you, dear Joseph Vissarionovich, that the kolkhozes and sovkhoses of such-and-such an oblast have fulfilled the government plan of grain deliveries by 100.3 per cent before the allotted time. The delivery of grain to the Government continues."

Every "household" had to surrender compulsory deliveries in the same manner as the kolkhoz. On this particular farm these amounted to: milk—120 litres (according to the fat content of the milk), eggs—75, meat—50 kilograms, wool—300 kilograms, dried potatoes—10 kilograms, and one pig of medium size.

Even if the hens did not lay sufficient eggs there was no reduction in the egg quota, and the peasants had to deliver wool even if they had no sheep. In this case the collective farmer had to buy eggs and wool at the Sunday market, and after he had to exchange the last of his grain for this purpose.

Every detail in the life of the Soviet collective farmer is a separate chapter in the story of his miserable existence, his need and lack of rights.

NATHANIEL GUBBINS

THE Sen Nest, where your Uncle Nat and his Life Partner, The Plucky Little Woman, live, stands only a few yards from the cruel sea.

As it faces due East on the coast of Kent there is nothing much but sea and flat country between The Nest and Russia. For a whole week the wild East wind from the frozen steppes has been blowing against its battered face.

Therefore it is not surprising that Uncle Naty and The Plucky Little Tovarich, both admirers of the 19th-century Russian drama, have been feeling rather Russian as they huddled over their stove. Even their dialogue has caught the spirit of envy and frustration so often found in Russian plays.

It is very cold. Yes, it is very cold. I think it is colder than yesterday.

They say it will be colder tomorrow. Do you want to go to Moscow, like the girl in The Three Sisters, Plucky Little Tovarich?

No, Uncle Naty, I want to go to Nassau. It is warm in Nassau. I read somewhere that Lord Beaverbrook is sunbathing at Nassau.

Only the very rich can afford to spend the winter in Nassau. Or the very beautiful.

They would not look very beautiful here where most noses are red and many are blue. Nobody looks beautiful with a blue nose.

Before the revolution the rich landlords of Russia went to the warm Crimea for the winter. Yes, and returning to their estates in the spring, full of health and vigour, to see if their serfs were behaving themselves.

Beaverbrook usually returns to England when the first cuckoo calls. The serfs used to say there were two things that made the spring unbearable—the silly voice of the cuckoo and the harsh barking of the landlord.

But the serfs were often fond of their landlords, even though the landlords beat them. It is a curious thing, that serfs are often fond of those that beat them. Perhaps a psychologist could explain it.

I think an economist could explain it better. A cultured captain of industry once said that if you paid a man enough money you could spit in his eye every day. If I could go to Nassau anywhere could spit in my eye twice a day.

Never mind, soon we shall hear the cuckoo call, cuckoo, cuckoo, cuckoo. Soon after we shall hear the Beaver call. Why don't we have Empire Free Trade? Why don't we do this? Why don't we do that? For why, for why, for why?

It is very cold. It is getting colder. It will be colder tomorrow.

Dear Mum

L.T.—GENERAL Sir Brian Horrocks said in a lecture that the young soldier of today, called up from the towns and suburbs, is less suitable for war training than his predecessors because of malign influence of Mum. When the sergeant calls me dumb I write a little note to Mum—darling Mum. "Dear Mum," I write, "My 'The vulgar sergeant called me dumb.' 'Not merely dumb but something dumb.' 'Oh something, something awful dumb.' 'Dear Mum, you always were my mum.' 'And never, never called me dumb.' 'I'll never be a soldier, Mum.' 'I hate the sound of life and drum.' 'The Army food upsets my tum.' 'I know my Dad thinks I'm a bum.' 'He liked the sound of life and drum.' 'And if the food-upset his tum.' 'Or if the sergeant called him dumb.' 'Or something simply shocking.' 'Or cursed his soul to Kingdom Come.' 'He never whimpered to his Mum.' 'But took it on the chin, by gum.' 'But Mum, dear Mum, my darling mum.' 'I'm not a bit like Dad, dear Mum.' 'I only want to be a bum.' 'With your good grub inside my tum.' 'Yum, yum, dear Mum, yum, yum, yum, yum.'"

Of course, I am not speaking for lions brought up in a house, where it is the custom for men to kiss each other, and where the women are usually better looking and use much better perfume. If a French lion is kissed by a man he looks no siller than a French general being kissed by another French general. If he is kissed by a pretty French woman, a French audience regards him as fortunate. It does not look upon him as the King of Beasts turned into a clown.

Apart from the embarrassment of shy British lions being kissed in public, there is also the question of hygiene. The majority of English people suffer from persistent colds or chronic catarrh. As lions are exceptionally healthy and have therefore not built up any resistance to disease, their defences against infection are pitifully weak.

Therefore, when the public reads about lions savaging their trainers, apparently without reason, I hope it will be remembered that (1) Lions do not like being trained.

(2) If the lions are English they are terrified of being kissed.

(3) If the trainers are English the lions are also terrified of catching their colds.

(4) If the trainer is an English woman the lions are not only terrified of being kissed and catching a cold but also find their cheap perfume unbearable.

A lion of my acquaintance was once kissed by a heavily scented woman trainer with a cold. She left a husband and three little children. Hoping his wife and family are well.

There is a group of Indian holy men called the Napsadhis who believe that the world's problems might be solved if the leading statesmen met each other naked. The Awful Child: Do they mean the ones in Berlin? I suppose so. Quite naked? That's what they say. Not even their winter coats on. No. Aren't they lucky they're not having the conference here? Yes. Would they have their lunch naked in the hotel or undress in conference room? I imagine they would undress in the conference room. Who would be the first to undress? As the French are uninhibited I suppose it would be M. Bidault. Who next? M. Molotov might make a gesture as far as his coat. And wait for the others before he took everything off? The Russians are clever at playing the last card. Who would have the best come without holes in them? Mr. Eden has the reputation of being well dressed. Perhaps he's only well dressed on top? I wouldn't like to say. Who would look the best naked? My fancy would be Mr. Eden or Mr. Dulles. Have the others got big tummies? Fairly big. And hairy chests? I don't know. Why do the Indians think they would get on better naked? Where is nakedness there is no pride, unless you count bathing beauties. Would they be ashamed of their tummies? I expect so. And agree quickly so that they could put on their clothes again? Quite likely. Perhaps you could get more money from the bank if you and the bank manager were naked? Possibly. Or a better joint from the butcher if you and the butcher were naked? Maybe. Or perhaps the income tax man would let you off paying taxes if you rushed into his office naked? The possibilities are endless.

World Copyright

CHELSEA v. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY



Bentley (right) and Stubbs of Chelsea are beaten by McIntosh, Sheffield Wednesday goalie. Wednesday won the away match 1-0.

The Frozen North Has A New Hero

The Frozen North has a new hero. Along with the Nansens and Nanooks, the name Stein Erikson is spoken with awe in the icy wastes of the Arctic.

Unlike those other great men, though, Norway's Erikson is no explorer. He keeps a shop in Oslo. But neither is he an ordinary counter-hand. With affairs of shop over he becomes skier Erikson, and spends his time gliding down the local snow-covered mountain slopes.

Why, if he is not an explorer, is he called a "trick skier" and "an aerobist"? It is because he is a supreme champion of champions, as peers as a Jesse Owens or a Don Bradman. The secret of his success is his "trick" and his "aerobism".

He is a man of many talents. In the first run there were 70 flags to twist and weave around. Each skier had to make a sharp turn at 35 mph on the top of the mountain. Eight of the top ten actually ran on their hands and feet. Erikson was one of them.

The top was steep and treacherous that several spectators along the route slipped and were injured. Erikson remained steady, on the second run there were 72 turns. By the time that stage was reached, only the French and Swiss skiers were left of the race.

Indeed, all the other 65 competitors looked like cats as they compared with the thoroughbred Norwegian. The over-the-hill skiers seemed even to defy the laws of gravity. He barely paused as he reached the turn, he zoned round where others looked at the ground.

Asked how many times he had been injured, he replied: "One is supposed to be injured every time." In other words he went flat out.

No wonder his time for the two runs was only 140.06 secs. While that of the runner-up, Germany's Bernd Obermaier, was 145.8 secs.

MOUNTAIN STAR
Who is this new mountain star of the light brown hair, blue Viking eyes and flashing smile? In his pillar box red sweater, navy blue trousers and white socks, he is Norway's national colour. He is Erikson, the skier who won the 1952 Olympics.

It was an overnight sensation. At the age of 34, he has a body that seemed to be a perfect fit to the ground. How, remains a mystery. Action photographs don't help. They merely look like crack shots. Last night's sensation, he was not a world's best. He was a champion.

Soviet Swimmers Claim Medley Relay Record
Stockholm, Mar. 9. A Soviet swimming team tonight claimed a new world record for the 400 Yards Medley Relay with a time of 3 minutes 52 seconds. The previous record was held by the University of Ohio with 3 minutes 55 seconds.

The Soviet performances in the Stockholm swimming pool were: Vladimir Skripchenko (backstroke) 68.9 seconds, Vladimir Minashkin (breast stroke) 63.3 seconds, Piotr Skripchenko (butterfly stroke) 58.4 seconds and Leon Balandin (free style) 51.4 seconds.—France-Press.

Hongkong Lawn Bowlers For Empire Games
The Hongkong Lawn Bowls Association is planning to send five players to the British Empire Games at Vancouver. Clubs have been asked to nominate players to represent Hongkong at Vancouver and a committee meeting to discuss these nominations is to be held this evening.

The five players selected will represent Hongkong in singles, pairs and fours.

RUSSIANS ARE LAUNCHING A FULL SCALE SPORTS OFFENSIVE

Soviet Russia is launching a full-scale sports offensive. The present scene is Scandinavia, but Russia apparently wants to extend it to the rest of the world.

Her sports envoy number one at the current international ice and snow events is English-speaking, tall, thin Comrade Rmomanov Kiselev, Russia's representative at last year's World Football Conference at Paris.

His job has ostensibly been to keep an eye on the Soviet long distance skiers, who finished second to the Finns in the World Championships.

OUT OF THEIR SHELLS
But, in addition, he has made it clear that Soviet athletes in general are coming out of their shells to meet the world's best on their own ground.

The Russians, of course, entered the 1952 Olympic Games at Helsinki. There, however, they kept to themselves. Apparently they had orders not to mix with the Western athletes.

Now, by contrast, Kiselev is all "Yes, Yes, Yes." Perhaps the Russians gained confidence by holding their own with the Americans at Helsinki. Or maybe there is political intent and summer sports.

Whatever the reason, Russia's cold weather athletes have been unexpectedly warm in their approach to the West.

And listen to what Kiselev has to say:

"We intend to develop sports relations in order to get our

teams to the top in all sports. We want to compete against foreign teams, not only at home, but abroad."

FROM THE KREMLIN?
Coming from Kiselev, these words might well have been issued by the Kremlin. For he is head of the Sports Relations Department of the Soviet Foreign Office as well as a representative of Ponomarev, Minister of Culture in Malenkov's Government.

"Do you mean that Russia has decided to do away with the Iron Curtain in sport?" I asked him.

Kiselev replied: "Sport has nothing to do with politics. We only take the standard of a foreign team into account."

To show what he meant he gave Sweden's Communists the brush off when they offered to fly their daily paper from Stockholm to the Russian team.

"That would be political. We can do without your paper, thank you," Kiselev told them in the hearing of a group of other people.

He also asked the Swedes if they could house the Russian team near Falun, Sweden, so that the Soviet athletes could fraternise with their rivals.

This year, furthermore, the Russians brought no special food and drink from home as they did at Helsinki. They have been eating two Swedish meals a day.

It is not only the porridge and salted herring for breakfast and meat balls and cranberries for lunch.

"Has there been a change of sports policy since Stalin died?" I enquired.

Kiselev replied: "Well, we should not behave as Brazil has done over the World Basketball Championships. The Brazilians have not invited Russia or Czechoslovakia to Rio de Janeiro because we do not maintain diplomatic relations."

REVOLUTIONARY
That statement was revolutionary. Russia has long refused to meet France, Spain and Czechoslovakia at because diplomatic relations are broken.

Kiselev seemed most enthusiastic about better sports relations with France, which Moscow has been trying to detach (politically) from America for many months.

He said: "Football is Russia's most popular sport and we look forward to meeting the French. Their own great sport is bicycling so we shall also send a team of track cyclists to Paris."

What about Britain? Kiselev would only say he hoped a British football team would meet the Dynamos or some other crack Soviet eleven in Russia this year.

What about Zatopek? Yes, Kiselev looked forward to Czechoslovakia's triple Olympic Champion meeting Britain's wonder runner Gordon Pirie at the European Athletic Championships in Switzerland this summer.

What else beyond learning technique from the foreigners do you expect to get out of this open door sports policy? Goodwill for Communism?"

"Sport knows no frontiers", came the diplomatic answer.

WORLD CHAMPION



Lidiya Selikova of Soviet Russia seen at speed during the World Ladies Skating Championships at Ostersund, Sweden. She won the championship title for 1954—while two of her countrywomen took second and third places.—Express Photo.

King's Regiment Win Land Forces Team Boxing

By OUR BOXING CORRESPONDENT

As he stepped up to present the prizes at the end of the Land Forces Team Boxing Championship at Farnley yesterday, General Crudas said 'Well done, King's... and that very neatly summed up the feelings of all who saw the boxers of the 1st Bn. King's Regt. defeat their opposite numbers from the 1st Bn. Dorset Regt. by 19 points to 14 and so emerge worthy champions.

The honours went to the better balanced team and there can be no doubt that they have well earned the right to represent Hongkong in the FARELF Championships at Singapore.

The standard of the boxing was not as high as one might have expected in such an advanced stage of the competition but anything that was lacking in skill was adequately replaced by enthusiasm and a will-to-win-spirit that was good to see.

The King's won eight of the eleven bouts on the programme and showed an all round superiority that entitled them to victory.

The biggest surprise of the afternoon was the knockout victory which Sgt. Smith (Dorset) scored over Ken Fletcher (King's) after the latter had held the upper hand for most of the fight and seemed to be well on the way to a clear-cut win.

THE RESULTS
Here is a complete list of the bouts (King's boxers first):
Bantam: Kgn. Kearns beat Pte Bodwell by R.O. in 3rd Rd.
Feather: Kgn. Kelly beat Cpl. Donaghy on points.

Light: Kgn. McElhinney lost to L/Cpl. Darby on points.
Light Welter: Kgn. Paxford lost to Pte James on points.
Cpl. Reid beat Pte. Chiallico on points.

Welter: Kgn. Nolan beat Pte. Broad on points.
Light Middle: Kgn. Fletcher was KO'd by Sgt. Smith in 2nd round.

Red Sox Slugger Operated On
Boston, Mar. 9. Boston Red Sox slugger Ted Williams was operated on today to speed the healing of a fractured collar-bone suffered a week ago during his first 10 minutes of Spring practice at Sarasota, Florida.—United Press.

MCC Draw In Grenada

Grenada, Windward Islands, Mar. 9. The MCC touring cricketers drew their two-day match with Windward Islands here yesterday.

A solid innings of 80 not out by Neverson helped Windward Islands to score 184 in reply to the MCC first innings total of 205 for seven declared. With a definite result out of the question the MCC batted light-heartedly in their second and had made 177 for three by stumps.

Freddie Trueman, the England opening bowler, worked up a good pace on the matting pitch to take seven wickets for 69 runs yesterday. He claimed his victims in the first eight wickets but Neverson could not be shifted. He batted 4½ hours and hit 11 fours and one six.

The MCC lost Butler and Bailey with only 15 runs in their second innings but May and Wardle put on 122 for the third wicket. May was 93 not out and Wardle, who hit four sixes in one over, made 66.—Reuters.

New Zealanders Beat West Australia

Perth, Mar. 9. New Zealand's cricketing tourists, on their way home from the South African tour, won the first of their matches in Australia today when they beat Western Australia by 184 runs.

A declaration by the New Zealanders left the state requiring 318 runs for victory but against the swing bowling of 33-year-old G. W. Overton, who can move the ball both ways, they collapsed for 133. Overton hit 14 fours with seven wickets for 52 runs.

Final scores were: New Zealand 371 and 192 for seven declared. Western Australia 248.

MAPLE LEAFS WANT TO VISIT SOVIET UNION

Toronto, Mar. 9. Maple Leafs, one of Canada's leading professional ice hockey teams, are seeking permission to visit the Soviet Union early in May.

Maple Leafs stated that they had sent a telegram to the Soviet Ambassador to Canada. They would like to meet the Russian team which defeated the amateur Canadian side, Lyndhurst Motors, in the final of the World Championships at Stockholm on Sunday.—Reuters.

THE GAMBOLS

WHICH CINEMA SHALL WE GO TO, DEAR?



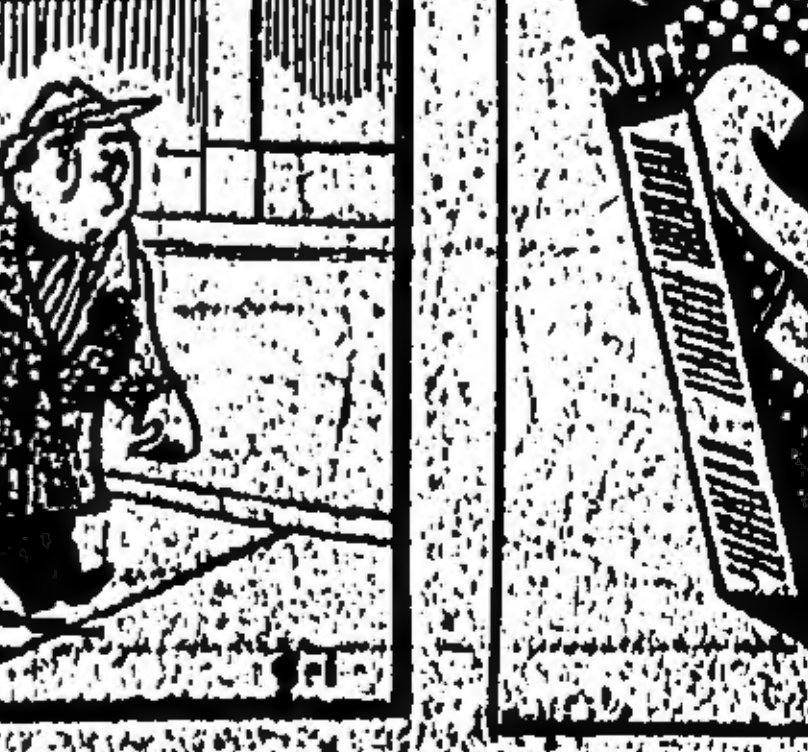
WHAT TIME DOES THE SHOW START AT THE OCEANIC 7.40



THEN I'LL GO IN AT 7.30 AND YOU WAIT UNTIL 7.40 BUT YOU'LL SEE THE END FIRST



YES, DEAR, AND IF IT ENDS EARLY I'LL COME OUT AND WE CAN GO TO THE TROXIAN



Surf



NEW TERRITORIES

FANLING UN LONG & SHEUNG SHUI DISTRICTS.

THE CHINA MAIL

Is now obtainable from the

SHEUNG SHUI STATION STALL, SHEUNG SHUI RAILWAY STATION.

Orders Accepted. Deliveries Undertaken.



Greeks Want Tito To Help Them Close "The Boulevard To Athens"

By Paul Hurmuses, Associated Press Correspondent in Athens

Yugoslavia's Marshal Tito, an independent Communist leader at odds with Moscow, definitely holds key cards in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's European defence plans. Tito is playing those cards close to his chest. So close, in fact, that high ranking Western diplomats are worried.

Military strategists admit privately that Yugoslavia controls the ultimate defence of two classic Balkan invasion routes—one into Italy, the other into Greece. And so far, Tito has shown no disposition to do anything about strengthening the defences of these massive gates through which Red Army tanks might roll.

The broad Ljubljana Gap in northwestern Yugoslavia would provide access to northern Italy from Hungary in the event of war.

The Vardar River plain, joining Greece and Yugoslavia, has been known in the past as the "Boulevard to Athens." It was used to advantage by German panzers in 1941 when Hitler came to the aid of Mussolini's

forces battered for six months by the Greeks on the Albanian front.

When Greece and Turkey entered NATO in 1952, both Ljubljana and Vardar became the No. 1 problem of the NATO South European Command at Naples, then under U.S. Adm. Robert Carney.

Top sources admit that today, two years later, this primary

problem still faces Carney's successor, Admiral William Fechteler.

NATO generals and admirals would like to see Yugoslavia do something about preparing some sort of defence screen in these two strategically critical points.

Never Will Be

So far, say these sources, there have been a number of factors preventing any sort of close military co-operation between Yugoslavia and NATO. Most important is the fact that Communist Yugoslavia is not a member of NATO, and in all likelihood never will be.

Secondly, they declare, the row between Yugoslavia and Italy over Trieste decisively narrowed the possibility of Tito and the Italians getting together and trying to map some sort of joint defence.

So far as is known here, the Yugoslav army has not yet undertaken to reinforce the Vardar plain defences.

Last year, the Greeks, Yugoslavs and Turks signed an agreement pledging mutual assistance in event of invasion against any of the three. This more or less loose political arrangement, known as the Tripartite Balkan Alliance, was to be followed by some sort of concrete military pact.

The NATO planners, particularly the US members, hoped that this alliance would help in an important way to bring the Yugoslavs into military agreement with Greece and Turkey, already members of NATO.

Who, What Or Why?

It's been over a year since the Balkan alliance was signed in Ankara. To date the three countries have not agreed on any joint course of military action to be followed in event of a Soviet attack on NATO's vital southeast flank.

This despite the fact that all three have gone on record at various times as urging military implementation of the alliance.

The Greeks are particularly uneasy over the admitted slow progress. They have had bitter experience with the Vardar plain's vulnerability. They insist that in order to avoid repetition of Hitler's 1941 strategy when the German tanks rolled across the frontier, the Greeks and Yugoslavs must quickly designate, on some sort of joint strategy.

The Greeks currently have 10 divisions in the field, numbering some 150,000 men. They claim they can hold the line along most of the rugged Bulgarian-Greek frontier. If the Greeks are to hold the vital southeast corner of Yugoslavia where it joins Greece and Bulgaria.

The Greeks actually did stop the German advance cold when it attempted to get into Greece across the Bulgarian frontier in 1941. Yugoslav, however, collapsed and the Germans simply rolled into Greece from Yugoslavia down the Vardar plain.

TRADE and COMMERCE SECTION

SHARP RISE IN WEST GERMAN EXPORTS

Treasury Issues Warning To UK Industry

FROM AN ECONOMIC CORRESPONDENT IN LONDON

A warning that German competition may seriously upset Britain's export hopes for 1954 is given by the Treasury in its privately-circulated "Bulletin for Industry," recently released in London.

The Bulletin points out that though British exports continued to climb throughout last year, they had to meet keener competition, especially from the Germans. And in some markets and some industries the U.K. "was not altogether getting the best of it."

If this trend were to develop seriously during 1954—as it might—there could be no certainty, the Treasury says, that last year's improvement would be held, "let alone bettered as the circumstances require that it should be."

British exports increased in value by £71 million between the first and second halves of 1953. Within this total, exports to the dollar area rose by £2 million, this improvement being more than accounted for by an increase in sales to the U.S. which joined the dollar area in October 1952. Sales to Canada and the United States actually fell between the two six-month periods, but Britain's share of their total imports (except from each other) improved from ten per cent to eleven per cent.

Britain's exports to the O.E.C. (Western European) countries rose by £3 million between the two half-years, but this was more than offset by a reduction in exports to these countries by the rest of the sterling area. As a result, the

sterling area's position with the European Payments Union deteriorated sharply. In the first half of 1953 it had a surplus of £51 million with E.P.U.; in the second half it had a deficit of £21 million. The area now owes the Union nearly £200 million.

U.K. exports to other non-sterling countries accounted for one-fifth of the increase, mainly due to higher sales in Russia, Yugoslavia, Uruguay and Argentina.

But three-quarters of the improvement—£62 million out of £71 million—was in sterling exports, mostly to Australia and New Zealand. As their largest supplier, the U.K. stand to benefit most from any relaxation of import restrictions in these countries.

£84M. HIGHER

The Treasury calculates that German exports were £84 million higher in the second half than in the first half of 1953. But since German exports are only about two-thirds as large as those of the U.K., this represents a much bigger percentage increase than the U.K.'s.

Over half the German increase was in exports to O.E.C. countries. Their increase in exports to the dollar area and to the rest of the world was larger than the U.K.'s, but to the sterling area it was smaller.

A good deal of the improvement in British exports was in textiles and other consumer goods. The value of cotton goods sold abroad was eight per cent higher in the second half-year than in the first. Exports of woollen goods were eleven per cent better.

Refined petroleum, arms and ammunition, and aircraft and parts—in which, the Treasury observes, the U.K. has hardly any German competition to meet—accounted for another fifth of the increase. Exports of engineering products, apart from aircraft, were much the same in the two half-years.

But in Germany engineering products accounted for nearly a third (£26 million) of the increase in exports. The Treasury points out, however, that a good deal of the German gains in machinery and electrical apparatus in the last two years have been at the expense, not of the U.K., but of other European countries, such as France, Belgium, Italy and Sweden. But in some areas, notably the Middle East, the U.K. appears to have been losing ground to the Germans.

CHICAGO GRAIN PRICES

Chicago, Mar. 9. Prices per bushel in cents: Closing Prices

Wheat, No. 2, red
Spot March 22 1/2 (H) 22 1/2 (L)
May 22 1/2
July 22 1/2
Sept. 22 1/2
Dec. 22 1/2

Corn, No. 2, yellow
Spot March 18 1/2
May 18 1/2
July 18 1/2
Sept. 18 1/2
Dec. 18 1/2

Soyabean, No. 2, yellow
Spot March 24 1/2
May 24 1/2
July 24 1/2
Sept. 24 1/2
Dec. 24 1/2

Exchange Rates

London Mar. 9. The rubber market was quiet with No. 1 R.S. spot quoted at 10 1/16 pence per lb.

LONDON MARKET

London, Mar. 9. The rubber market was quiet with No. 1 R.S. spot quoted at 10 1/16 pence per lb.

Kite-Flying Record Attempt Falls

Richmond, Virginia, Mar. 9. The world kite-flying record of 3,000 feet still stands.

Police officer T. A. Conway, Jr., failed to break it yesterday when an aircraft ran into his kite as it soared upward to 2,250 feet.—United Press.

HONGKONG STOCK EXCHANGE

(From Our Correspondent)

Business on the Stock Exchange this morning amounted to \$257,522.40. Noon quotations and the morning's dealings:—

SHARES BUYERS SELLERS SALES

H.K. Bank 1935 1645 10 = 1640
H.K. Land 100 25 = 1640

INSURANCES

Lombard 85 56 1/2
Underwriters 85 56 1/2

SHIPPING

Asia Nav. 1 15 1500 = 1 15

DOCKS, ETC.

K. Wharf 20 80 21 20 500 = 21

President 13 60 13 60 500 = 13 70

Wheelock 7 1/2 7 1/2 4000 = 7 1/2

LAND, ETC.

H.K. Land 0 90 0 1000 = 0 90

H.K. Land 76 77 100 = 76 1/2

Shed Land 1 22 1/2

Realty 2 15 2 15 1/2

UTILITIES

Electric 20 10 20 10 100 = 20 10

Gas 13 13 13 13 100 = 13

C. Light 15 15 15 15 100 = 15

Electric 15 15 15 15 100 = 15

Telephone 20 20 20 20 100 = 20

INDUSTRIALS

Cement 16 16 16 16 200 = 16 20

Stores, Etc. 27 1/2 27 1/2 200 = 27 1/2

Walton X 18 1/2 18 1/2 200 = 18 1/2

All 7 60 7 60 200 = 7 60

COTTONS

Textile Corp. 7 60 7 60 1000 = 7 60

MISCELLANEOUS

Yamasa 1 10 1 10 100 = 1 10

Invest 4 07 1/2 4 10 1000 = 4 07 1/2

New York Sugar Market

World No. 4 sugar futures today closed unchanged to one point higher with sales of 185 contracts.

Domestic No. 6 sugar futures closed unchanged to two points lower with sales of 610 contracts.

World futures were quiet and about unchanged. Malaya will be in the world market tomorrow for 10,000 tons of refined sugar for May shipment, traders reported.

Domestic futures were active and steady. Some light new offerings were made in the New York market at 8.30 cents a pound, although some sugar hedged in futures might be available a little lower. Refiner interest was at 8.25 cents.

Future closings:

Contract No. 4 (world)

May 8.31 1/2

July 8.32 1/2

September 8.33 1/2

October 8.34 1/2

January 8.35 1/2

March 8.36 1/2

May 8.37 1/2

July 8.38 1/2

September 8.39 1/2

October 8.40 1/2

US Congress Seeks To Cut Taxes On Luxuries

Washington, Mar. 9.

The United States Congress is planning a price cut in "luxury" goods and services to come into force next month.

The House of Representatives will discuss tomorrow a new bill reducing to ten per cent wartime excise taxes on such things as jewellery, furs, cosmetics, leather goods, long distance telephone calls and theatre and travel tickets.

These have been taxed variously at 25, 20 and 15 per cent.

Once the bill becomes law nearly all the reductions or a percentage of them would be passed onto the public.

President Eisenhower objects to the bill on the ground that it will deprive the Treasury of about \$1,000 million. But the House is prepared to override his opposition and approve the bill after a one day debate.

The Senate is expected to follow the House lead.

15 P.C. LEVEL

The Treasury has been reported willing to settle for a compromise of about half the loss estimated from the bill as it stands.

The White House and the Treasury were said to be prepared to agree on a 15 per cent level of excise taxes instead of the 10 per cent provided for in the bill.

The Administration planned to fight for this in the Senate rather than in the House of Representatives where the feeling for tax relief is stronger.

But Congress, conscious of public complaints of high living costs and looking to Congressional elections next November, has shown very little favour towards the Administration's wish to keep tax levels steady for another year.

The tax cutting bill has been introduced by Mr. Daniel Reed, Chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. Reed was defeated by the Eisenhower Administration in

"Little Fear Of Spiralling Decline In USA"

New York, Mar. 9.

The National City Bank of New York notes in its March Letter that, despite the recession, most observers agree that business sentiment in the US is showing little change and little fear of a spiralling decline into a depression is apparent.

It says the necessity for inventory adjustment, the reduction of costs through improved productivity and elimination of waste, and an aggressive effort to meet new market conditions, has been accepted as inevitable.

A tightening up of this kind will eventually strengthen the business organisation and lay a base for a resumption of the upward trend. Businessmen are addressing themselves to these problems with general confidence in the long-term outlook.

A basic reason for this confidence is the belief that consumer buying will hold up. As long as demand holds up relatively, an increase in orders and output will eventually take place. It is only to all the gap between production and consumption now being met by drawing on inventories.—China Mail Special.

Volumes and open interest in the Exchange today were:

Month Volume Open Interest

March 5,000 70,000

April 11,200 60,000

May 5,500 171,100

June 2,900 245,400

July 4,000 35,900

August 1,100 85,400

September 1,100 41,400

October 40,100 2,163,300

NEW YORK PRICE

New York, Mar. 9. Closing Prices

March 34 1/2

July 34 1/2

Dec. 34 1/2

Mar. 34 1/2

Apr. 34 1/2

May 34 1/2

June 34 1/2

July 34 1/2

Aug. 34 1/2

Sept. 34 1/2

Oct. 34 1/2

Nov. 34 1/2

Dec. 34 1/2

Jan. 34 1/2

Feb. 34 1/2

Mar. 34 1/2

Apr. 34 1/2

May 34 1/2

June 34 1/2

July 34 1/2

Aug. 34 1/2

Sept. 34 1/2

Oct. 34 1/2

Nov. 34 1/2

Dec. 34 1/2

Jan. 34 1/2

Feb. 34 1/2

Mar. 34 1/2

Apr. 34 1/2

May 34 1/2

June 34 1/2

July 34 1/2

Aug. 34 1/2

Sept. 34 1/2

Oct. 34 1/2

Nov. 34 1/2

Dec. 34 1/2

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Feb. 34 1/2

Mar. 34 1/2

Apr. 34 1/2

May 34 1/2

June 34 1/2

July 34 1/2

Aug. 34 1/2

Sept. 34 1/2

Oct. 34 1/2

Nov. 34 1/2

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May 34 1/2

June 34 1/2

July 34 1/2

Aug. 34 1/2

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Nov. 34 1/2

Dec. 34 1/2

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Feb. 34 1/2

Mar. 34 1/2

Apr. 34 1/2

May 34 1/2

June 34 1/2

July 34 1/2

Aug. 34 1/2

Sept. 34 1/2

Oct. 34 1/2

Nov. 34 1/2

Dec. 34 1/2

Jan. 34 1/2

Feb. 34 1/2

Mar. 34 1/2

Apr. 34 1/2

May 34 1/2

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CASEBOOK

Finding A Friend

UNTIL rather less than two years ago, Terence worked, contentedly enough, in an ironmonger's shop in his home-town in Ireland. Then, quite unaccountably and suddenly, at the age of 28, he was seized with an urge to change his job.

He handed in his notice at the shop, and when it had expired, packed his bags and took the boat to England in search of adventure.

Terence was not a reckless adventurer, and he held his ambition on a tight rein. He made his way to London, and almost at once found a job as an assistant in an ironmonger's shop.

THE GREAT IDEA

FOR his first 12 months here, Terence was happy enough. The wonders of London delighted him and seemed endless, and, being happy, he did well at his work, receiving promotion at 18 months.

After the first 12 months, the simple pleasures of sightseeing began to pall. Terence realised, how short he was of friends.

Night after night, he sat alone in his furnished room in Victoria, cursing his solitary state, longing for someone to talk to. At last he had an idea.

He would make it a nightly habit to visit one public house, stay there as long as he could, infiltrate himself into the company of the regulars, and from among them find his friends.

THE SNAG

THE idea had its merits and the results were quite encouraging. After a week or two, he knew several men, and he, and soon even knew the names of some and a little about them.

There was only one snag. The nightly visits proved disastrously expensive.

Week by week, Terence found he needed more money than he possessed. If he was to carry his great idea to its proper end, he began to feel, only a shilling or two at a time, from the till in the shop where he worked.

Inevitably, since he stole, so often, Terence was caught. He was brought to Bow Street, and there charged with stealing one sum of 2s. and another of 4s. He pleaded guilty and admitted that over a period of three months he had probably taken about £5.

I WILL REPAY

"HE always given good service in the shop," the officer in charge of the case said to Sir Laurence Dunne, the Chief Magistrate. He outlined Terence's history. "He says the reason for this is that he has been drinking heavily and it impaired his judgment."

"Have you had trouble with drink before?" Sir Laurence asked Terence.

Terence hung his tattered black head, and muttered into his overcoat collar. "No, sir, I never had no trouble with the drink. It's just I been feeling all lonely and depressed, and didn't seem to have no friends. I promise I'll repay the money, if you'll give me the chance."

"You've made it very difficult for anyone to give you a chance," Sir Laurence said. "If this sort of thing had happened even a few years ago, there'd have been no two thoughts about it, you'd have gone to prison. However..."

YOU ARE LUCKY

HE put Terence on probation, ordering that when he had a new job, he was to pay back what he had stolen, at the rate of £1 a week.

"Have a talk with the probation officer," said the Chief Magistrate. "You can think yourself extremely lucky."

Terence clearly did. He nodded his head with great violence, then hurried out of the court, on the probation officer's heels, as a man might try to catch up with a friend long-sought and new found.

What's Her Line? Solution
MOSIERY MENDER
London Express Service.

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CHINA MAIL

Established 1847

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1954.

HK Rent Restrictions Criticism

Criticism of the continued restrictive legislation on rentals for residential properties was expressed by Mr W. A. Stewart, Chairman of Humphreys Estate & Finance Co., Ltd., when he presided at the annual general meeting of the Company this morning.

Mr Stewart said that the standard rent of 1941 was unfair in its application to European residential properties and that the permitted increases on those standard rents was "entirely unrealistic against current values."

He added that, fortunately, the Company had many tenants who, recognising the simple logic of the views he had expressed, had voluntarily agreed to increase their rents.

Addressing the meeting, Mr Stewart said: "The net profit on normal working for the year 1953 is \$518,517. To this is added profit on sale of property of \$574,270 and the balance brought forward from 1952 of \$135,003, making available for appropriation a total of \$1,227,790. The recommendations of the Directors in dealing with this balance are set out in the Report and I trust they meet with your approval."

The Profit & Loss Account disclosed that revenue was slightly less than the previous year. This was due to the sale of our Minden properties and Bank sale necessitated by the fact that the Company was unable to obtain a satisfactory price for the property. The balance of the year's revenue is shown in as much detail as possible and most fluctuations are self-explanatory.

You will notice that \$56,844 was spent on repairs and maintenance against \$30,511 in the previous year. This is largely due to major overhauls of some of our property which were considered essential and long overdue. Special repairs, amounting to \$44,349, represent our share of the cost of work carried out by Government in restoring the hillside on the approach road to our Chartered Bank site necessitated by two serious landslides. Bank interest is considerably reduced following a refund of our overdraft.

"VERY FAVOURABLE"

The Balance Sheet discloses that our Current Assets exceed Current Liabilities by \$582,435, a very favourable position as compared with previous years. Loans on mortgage are reduced to \$130,000, the balance of property sold on the sale of Minden properties having been settled. The provision for Depreciation and Amortisation of Crown Leases of \$500,000 and General Reserve of \$2,000,000 represents a satisfactory position.

The most important factor in our affairs during the year was the sale of Cornwall Lodge & Grounds, Kowloon, and it will be noted from the Profit & Loss Account that the net profit on this transaction amounted to \$574,270. This property was yielding an income of only \$6,000 a year and the proceeds from the sale can be used to very much better advantage.

As the Company's finances have improved very considerably over the last few years, the time has arrived when consideration can be given to the development of our May Road sites. Accordingly, the Directors have approved the building of a large block of apartments on the site of the old Frislon Cottage, May Road, which has remained in a war-damaged condition for so long. The new Frislon Apartments will comprise 35 flats of varying sizes and will be accessible by car. Plans have already been submitted to Government and work will be commenced as soon as approval is given. This scheme will be financed partly by our liquid resources and partly by the facilities promised by our Bankers. It may be of interest to you to know that most of the flats have already been booked by firms for the accommodation of their staffs.

UNFAIR STANDARD

During 1953 there was published the very able and comprehensive report of the Committee appointed to examine the Landlord & Tenants Ordinance. The increases recommended by this Committee were reduced by half after the second reading of the Bill in Council, following an outcry of protest by the Public in the local press. It is important that you should know that the

benefit to this Company from the increases adopted amounts only to some \$1,500 per month. I cannot let this occasion pass without expressing my opinion: firstly, that the standard rent of 1941 is unfair in its application to European residential properties; secondly, that the compulsory evacuation of families in 1940 necessitated substantial reductions in rents at that time, and, secondly, that the two increases permitted since the war, totalling 55%, on the standard rent of 1941, are entirely unrealistic against current values. Fortunately, we have many tenants who, recognising the simple logic of the views I have expressed, have voluntarily agreed to increase their rents, thereby making it possible for us to undertake much-needed repairs to some of our May Road buildings. This policy, whereby additional revenue commensurate with today's costs and values can be partly devoted to improvements in properties to tenants' advantage, is one which we shall continue as far as possible, but so long as restrictive legislation persists, now nearly nine years after the war—our desires in this direction will continue to be handicapped.

Those present at the meeting were Mr W. A. Stewart, (Chairman), the Hon. C. Blaker, MC, ED, Dr. H. K. S. N. Chau, CBE, Mr. H. Kadourie, Rev. Fr. J. V. Hunt, (representing the Auditors), Mr. P. A. L. Vine (representing Messrs Deacons, the Company's solicitors), Mr. D. E. Clark, Major S. M. Churn, Mr. O. P. Hechler, Mr. F. A. O'Leary and Mr. G. M. Davreux (Secretary).

The Chairman's Report and Statement of Accounts were adopted on the Chairman's proposition, seconded by Major Churn.

Mr Blaker, Mr Kadourie, Dr. Chau and Fr. Hunt were re-elected to the Board of Directors on the proposition of Mr Hechler, seconded by Mr Clark.

Mr Clark proposed the re-appointment of Messrs Pent Marwick, Mitchell and Company, as Auditors, and this was seconded by Major Churn.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"This looks like lip rouge on Junior's shoulder! I'm afraid the days of cleaning chocolate ice cream spots are gone forever!"

General Managership Agreement Terminated

At an extraordinary general meeting of Humphreys Estate & Finance Co., Ltd., held this morning a resolution was adopted terminating the agreement of Messrs J. D. Humphreys & Son under which they acted as General Managers for Humphreys Estate & Finance Co., Ltd.

Proposing the resolution, Mr H. Kadourie said: "The ordinary resolution, which is the main subject of this meeting, has been explained by a statement from the board, a printed copy of which has been mailed to all shareholders."

The Directors have stated that they have a high regard for the manner in which the Company's affairs in the past and I am sure shareholders will concur with that opinion. The Directors are also appreciative of the spirit in which the General Managers have conducted negotiations with them on the important matter now submitted for your decision.

The system of General Managership adopted by this Company many years ago had many advantages, but, principally, that the terms originally agreed meant economical management. However, with passing of time and the expansion of our business, this form of management becomes increasingly expensive and your Directors have decided that we have reached a stage where the Company can be managed efficiently, and eventually much more economically, by adopting new arrangements.

There is very little I can add to the explanations given in the statement of the board, except perhaps to remark that, although savings in the first year will be small, substantial benefit will be derived by our Company when we have implemented the policy of development now under contemplation; this is particularly so if such development is financed by new capital. I must also emphasise that the most important advantage of the new system is that the General Managers' Agreement is in being relieved from the obligation of paying commission on profits accruing from the sale of properties which are standing in our books at a fraction of their current value.

WARRANT ACCEPTANCE

Shareholders may of course rest assured that the Directors have considered this matter from all aspects. Having done so, they are convinced that the advantages to be gained by the Company warrant the acceptance of the offer made by the General Managers.

From the printed statement of the Board, it will be noted that the General Managers' offer to terminate their Agreement is conditional on acceptance by Peak Tramways Ltd. of an offer that has been made to them on the same principle. After due consideration, Messrs J. D. Humphreys & Son Ltd. have decided to withdraw this condition. I now formally propose as an ordinary resolution:—"That the Agreement dated the 22nd day of December 1918 between the Company and Messrs J. D. Humphreys & Son be terminated."

Four Face Poisons & Drugs Charges

Three men and a woman appeared before Mr Hin-shing Lo at Central this morning on charges of possession of poisons, permitting premises to be used for the manufacture of heroin, possession of dangerous drugs, possession of dangerous goods and resisting arrest.

Defendants, Tse Sock-yuen alias Chan Yau, 42, Chan Chi-ming, 42, Cheung Kan-ying, 35, female, and Chan Chun-kwok, 30, were remanded for seven days in gaol custody or bail of \$10,000—half cash, half surety allowed—pending transfer to District Court.

Det. Sub-Ins. C. C. Chau is in charge of the case. Mr Patrick Yu appeared for the first defendant, Tse Sock-yuen.

All four defendants are accused of having had in their possession on February 25 at 79 King's Road, fourth floor, four bottles of Baker's Anaesthetic Chloroform, without a permit under Part I Poisons Ordinance.

The first of the four additional charges against all the accused was permitting the above mentioned premises to be used for the manufacture of heroin on the same date.

A charge of possession of dangerous drugs, namely one gramme of crude morphine hydrochloride and 0.2 gramme of crude diacetylmorphine base without a permit was brought against all the defendants. They are also charged with having had possession of dangerous goods, namely two bottles containing 1200 cc of acetic anhydride, two bottles containing 650 cc of concentrated hydrochloric acid and 10 bottles containing a total of 10 pounds of ether.

The last defendant is also charged with resisting arrest on February 25.

WOMAN LOITERER FINED

"The Inspector at the Police station said that he would have to arrest me as there had been no other arrests that night, but he would release me if there were more arrests later."

Leung was also ordered to be bound over in the sum of \$200 for one year.

According to the Prosecution, two Policemen, Cpl 1287 and PC 3709 were on patrol at Des Voeux Road Central near Gilman Street at 11 p.m. on March 1 when they saw the defendant talking to a Chinese man, keeping her under observation. The Policemen saw her engage three different men in conversation within half an hour. They then arrested her and took her to Eastern Police Station.

Leung's story was that she met a friend and had talked to him for about half an hour before the policeman came up, and that after searching her friend, they arrested her. She then alleged that the Inspector at the station told her that she would have to be arrested as there had been no arrests that night, but that she would be released if there were other arrests later.

Red Candidate Defeated

London, Mar. 9.

Another blow was struck at Communist influence in the British trade unions, when W. E. Jones, a non-Communist, was elected the President of the Miners' Federation in succession to Sir William Lawther, who is retiring.

Jones, who was up to now secretary of the Yorkshire Miners' Union, was running against a well-known and popular Communist leader, A. Moffat, the President of the Scottish Miners' Union.

The presidency of the Miners' Federation is one of the key posts of British trade unionism. A first blow was struck by the British labour movement against Communist influence in the trade unions two weeks ago when a non-Communist, H. Oppenshaw, was elected President of the Metal Workers' Union, which includes 900,000 members.—France-Press.

Shareholder Opposes Resolution

Objections were raised this morning by Mr N. V. A. Croucher at an extraordinary meeting of the Peak Tramways Company, Limited, to a resolution terminating the present General Managership.

The meeting was convened to terminate the agreement between Messrs J. D. Humphreys and Son, Limited and the company, and to increase the capital to \$1,500,000 by the creation of 75,000 new shares at \$10 per share.

Mr Croucher said that he saw no reason to dispose of the General Managers who have served the company well in the past. He said he also considered that shareholders would be paying too high a price for running their own company.

Mr Croucher then asked the chairman for figures on the present financial state of the company, including the value of the land owned by the tramways.

Mr P. A. L. Vine, in answer to the questions put by Mr Croucher, said that the company had already sent a letter to him the previous week explaining as far as possible what assets the company had. "As for the price of land," said Mr Vine, "it was almost impossible to give a true estimate."

The resolution was then put to the vote and carried, with Mr Croucher abstaining.

A third resolution for the amendment to the articles of association of the company, was carried unanimously.

264 Summonses Dismissed

At Central this morning Mr Hin-shing Lo dismissed 264 summonses against stall owners who were accused of having caused obstructions.

The Police offered no evidence when Mr F. C. Woo, appearing for the hawkers, pleaded not guilty to all the summonses.

Court Claim For Deposit

The cross-examination of the Manager of the defendant Bank by leading Counsel for the plaintiffs in their 2½-million dollar deposit claim continued before Mr Justice Reynolds in the Supreme Court this morning.

Plaintiffs are the China Mutual Trading Co., Ltd. of 13-27 Ice House Street and defendants are the Bank of China, Ltd. (Incorporated in Hong Kong) and the Bank of China, Ltd. (Incorporated in the Straits Settlements).

Plaintiffs are claiming for the return from the Bank of HK\$2,580,171.90, being the balance of margins paid in connection with the importation of certain goods into Hongkong.

Plaintiffs claim repayment of this sum with interest thereon or alternatively the equivalent in Hongkong dollars of US\$448,504.43, or alternatively damages.

The Defence is that the margins had, at the request of the plaintiffs, been converted into U.S. dollars and that they were held by the defendants in U.S. dollars in the United States.

As a result of the freezing regulations passed in December 1950, the monies had become blocked and could not be returned.

Mr John McNeill, QC, Mr Percy Chen and Mr Brook A. Barnack, all instructed by Mr Y. H. Chan, of Messrs Lau, Chan and Ko, are appearing for the plaintiffs.

The defendants are represented by Mr H. L. Leong, QC and Mr D. A. L. Wright, both instructed by Mr H. J. Armstrong, of Messrs Deacons.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

Mr M. Ubachs, Manager of the defendant Bank, whose cross-examination by Mr McNeill commenced at the conclusion of his evidence-in-chief on Monday afternoon was further cross-examined by Counsel this morning.

In reply to a question where would a payment by plaintiffs be recorded in the Bank's books, Mr Ubachs said that it might be quite different.

Sometimes the Bank received amounts for various other customers and when that happened such amounts would appear in their books in bulk amounts. Payments by plaintiffs were recorded in their books, not necessarily in the same account.

Mr Ubachs explained that a Hongkong dollar current account was not a transit account.

Mr McNeill: Is a Hongkong dollar margin account a transit account?

Mr Ubachs: It is a transit account.

Is that because you have recorded certain transactions pending implementation, is that it?

Implementation of some obligation on the part of the Bank?—On the part of the customer or the Bank as the case may be.

Either one or the other?—Yes, or both.

In cases of a H.K. dollar current account, there are obligations on the part of the Bank, for example, to honour a cheque which required implementation?—Yes.

Hearing is continuing.

"JINX TRIP" ENDS

London, Mar. 10.

The 23,000-ton liner Orion docked at Tilbury yesterday after a three-month "jinx" trip to Australia and back, during which four people died and two disappeared. Three of the dead were passengers.

An inquiry will be held on board today into the disappearance of the Orion's mate, Henry Hellicar, 27, when the ship was near Aden on her homeward journey—a fortnight ago.

The other missing person was Mrs. Ann Wilkes, 47, an Australian, who disappeared while the ship was near Melbourne on the outward journey. She was presumed dead at an inquiry—China Mail Special.